

Gianna Chapman  
Testimony on HB 33  
Supporting the DD Workforce

I've always had an interest in working in the DD field since my younger brother's diagnosis at 2. I took the step and finally started working as a DSP at a day program. It did not take long to see and feel the effects and toll of the field, especially in this recent climate. My coworkers were burnt out and had been for over a year. Toileting, assisting with food, planning, scheduling, outings, activities, transportation, paperwork and unexpected events are all part of our daily work. Most of us are left exhausted at the end of the day and often end up taking the burdens of work home with us. In a job where we are constantly caring for others, it only seems appropriate we get cared for as well. It's easy in almost every job to be unsatisfied with pay and conditions in the workplace, it is expected. However, with all of the duties and responsibilities that come with our job, as professionals, we deserve to be paid for all of the effort that goes into it. We love our clients and we love working with them but it often seems to come at a price. Hard work and dedication to making sure someones family member is safe and cared for is exchanged for late bills, missed meals, burn out and an inability to care for ourselves. You, as law makers, have the ability to take these burdens off of us. You have the ability to make our shoulders feel lighter and our efforts feel reciprocated. Choose to care for those who care.