GWENDOLYN M BOWMAN Testimony on HB 33 Supporting the DD Workforce

I've been working in this field for almost 20yrs and I love what they do. We need more help and I belive the only way we can get more help is more pay. There's more facilities around us in Ohio that pays more and we do the exact same thing caring for our individuals. Also these individuals needs more help in the houses we work at and one on one attention and it's hard to do that with only being scheduled with two staff with six or seven individuals. We are caregivers, caring and assisting with day to day living and helping them to be active in outside activities that we really can not do being that we are under paid and not enough staff available. I'm advocating not only for me and my workers but mainly for the individuals that I'm assisting. I've spent more time at work then caring for my family members and also myself.