

Heather Wellman
Testimony on HB 33
Supporting the DD Workforce

My name is Heather Wellman , and I am submitting this letter because I'm son is an Ohioan with developmental disabilities. He relies on Direct Support Professionals to support me with everyday activities and keep up with my medical needs. I lack the supports I need due to the shortage of Direct Support Professionals caused by low wages. In the past few months, there have been multiple times when he was not properly looked after because of the lack of support he requires. I urge lawmakers to take action to raise wages for workers in the DD system so that Ohioans like my son can get the supports he desperately needs to thrive and white frankly just to live. He is in a group home so these individuals are essential in his life.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony and for your careful consideration of how to resolve this critical issue.