

Jana Warren
Testimony on HB 33
Supporting the DD Workforce

Hello,

My name is Jana Warren, and I am the mother of 39 year old Ashley Warren. Ashley's dad is Kirby Warren, and he is the President of the R T Industries Board of Miami County, Ohio. Ashley is the joy of our lives, but is developmentally disabled as a result of bacterial meningitis at the age of 14 weeks old. She will always need to live with either us or one of her sisters. RT day programs are a Godsend for our family. Ashley loves to have something to look forward to each day, and RT provides that. The variety of interesting and fun activities planned are amazing! She is never bored because they keep her "on the move" every day.

It is such a blessing to have safe transportation provided every day. Each of the bus drivers, aides, and coordinators are kind, thoughtful, conscientious, respectful, and hard working. Kirby and I both believe it takes a really special person to dedicate their life to working with developmentally handicapped individuals. We often say it takes a sincere and loving heart to work at RT.

As parents, we believe these workers deserve a very competitive wage because this is not a job or position that just anyone "off the street" can fill. Without the programs provided by RT, Ashley would be a different girl. We couldn't begin to provide the variety of fun activities that she enjoys now. RT gives Ashley a life separate from us, where she can grow socially, make new friends, and learn the life skills of cooperation and sharing. RT makes our Ashley a more "well rounded" individual even with her disability.

We are more than pleased and thankful for the RT day program and the leadership of CEO Ashley Brocius and her staff.