

Jessica Corwin  
Testimony on HB 33  
Supporting the DD Workforce

Sometimes I think people forget how severely affected our side of the workforce has been.. I come from all different places, I've worked in the homes, I've worked in facilities and I now work at a day hab. There has always been a workforce shortage, and with that comes our individuals not getting the care they SO desperately deserve! Rather it be in the homes where clients don't get the care they need to thrive and in our day hab settings.. a direct example comes from an individual who was telling us his address which is his program and due to staffing issues he can no longer do that task, nor does he sing like he use too with all the staffing issues. When it comes to outings.. we can't take our clients places with no staff and that's not fair. Their are people STILL making \$13 an hour to hold another person's life in their hands and I'll be honest it's hard.. we should have sooo much more support than we are given for the things that we do.. I don't do this job because I have too. I can do anything, but nothing beats the smile on my clients face when I pick her up in the morning or the client who comes raising to you the moment they walk in the door! We need more staff to be able to take all of these open positions everywhere and stay honestly. We would be able to take these individuals on more outings to be able to make sure everyone's programs are being worked and they are succeeding. Make sure they have job coaches that are easier to access. And the staff that are in the homes who are constantly working because staffing is so bad could probably use a break. While this is a very rewarding job it's also very exhausting some times. These individuals deserve better and all staff deserve better.