

Jessica Dillon
Testimony on HB 33
Supporting the DD Workforce

I've been working with people with Developmental Disabilities since I was able to work...I'm seen it all. I have a brother and a sister who have disabilities, so this field wasn't a hard decision for me. My current position is a struggle just because of the lack of staff. The lack of staff is based on pay rates. With that lack of staff our people are the real ones who are suffering. Only BASIC needs are being met and that's not fair! BUT the basic needs of the current staff we have aren't. most staff are working 7 days a week because they have to, weather its to pay the bills or they are being mandated because there's no one to else to work. So they're over worked and underpaid. This job may sound like a cake walk but I assure you it is not! its mentally, physically and emotionally draining at times.

If wages for this field were to rase there wouldn't be a staffing issue and our current staff would relax and our people could live better lives.