

JoAnn Smith
Testimony on HB 33
Supporting the DD Workforce

Everyone of us will know of a loved one that will need direct support care.. It could be due to age, sickness, an accident, or a disability. Sadly, we are at a critical point of having a competitive and quality workforce that will maintain our loved ones' health and safety. There is no monetary incentive to be able to recruit and keep staff. Those who stay often work two jobs and they are tired. We all know it will take offering a decent wage so Providers are not constantly screening applicants, hiring, and investing in training people over and over because staff is not sticking around. It is a waste of time and most importantly a waste of money to keep doing this. I know this because my adult daughter who is non-ambulatory due to Cerebral Palsy is starting with her 7th Provider since the pandemic. We have estimated that she has had over 100 support staff come to her home in that time span. 100+ people hired, trained and either fired or quit showing up. Her life has been on hold for too long now. Please raise wages and create jobs people will find competitive! J. Smith