

John Wilson  
Testimony on HB 33  
Supporting the DD Workforce

John and Tamara Wilson, we are parents of a child with developmental disabilities. Our Son has had issues with every organization regarding his involvement in programs developed to help people with ADHD, Autism, and social disabilities. He is now 24 years old and we have been doing everything to help him stay involved in events sponsored by the Department of disabilities and of course, Autism Speaks. These programs have been grossly overlooked since the beginning of the pandemic. This has isolated our Son from the social interaction he desperately needs to stay in a relationship with like people and to strengthen his ability grow 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 stranded without the support he requires. I urge lawmakers to take action to raise wages for workers in the DD system so that Ohioans like our Son can get the support he needs to thrive. My Wife and I, ask of legislators to vote in favor of increasing funding to raise wages for workers in the Department of Disability System. These are the most caring individuals we have ever met when dealing with offices that are set to help people with transportation or health care. They work hard to better the lives of many people in our community and across the state. We believe that this increase in wages is paramount towards the future of our Child one so many others to have a engaging and meaningful life. Thank you for reading our testimony and your attention to this matter.

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