

Jon Ahrens
Testimony on HB 33
Supporting the DD Workforce

I work, and have worked, in the disabilities field now for 8 years. It has also been a bit of a struggle to find the appropriate match of a worker for our industry. However after the COVID 19 pandemic, it has become nearly impossible to find willing and able staff to bring back and provider services to our clients. The funding provided to pay staff just isn't enough to pull workers away from other higher paying jobs available in the area. We get calls everyday from previous clients who are wanting to come back and do something during their day, but are unable because we don't have the staff to provide them service. Staffing is a huge issue right now. Day programs around the area need more financial assistance to have competitive wages with other industries we compete with in the job market. Often times are job can be much harder than those of jobs that pay more, making most people decide to take the easier route for more money. This unfortunately leaves a lot of people who need the most care, receiving none. With their loved ones reaching out to everyone possible asking for help, but getting rejected due to the staffing crisis.