

Joshua Ferry  
Testimony on HB 33  
Supporting the DD Workforce

My name is Joshua Ferry, and I am submitting testimony because I am an Ohioan with developmental disabilities advocating on behalf of other Ohioans with developmental disabilities . While I do rely on developmental disability services, I don't use DD to support me with everyday activities and keep up with my medical needs, and only use them when necessary. However, there are many who lack the support or need more support due to lack of resources. I'm advocating on behalf of these people due to the shortage of Direct Support Professionals caused by low wages. Everydy, many are stranded without the support required. I urge lawmakers to take action to raise wages for workers in the DD system so that Ohioans with Developmental Disabilities can get the support needed to thrive.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony and for your careful consideration of how to resolve this critical issue.