

Katharine O'Connell  
Testimony on HB 33  
Supporting the DD Workforce

Our 21 year old, disabled son, lost the person who was helping him clean back in October. Since then the employer has been unable to find anyone to fill that spot. The owner of the company has been coming in once a week to help him, but he really needs three hours of help three days a week. As a result of not having enough help, he has stepped on broken glass and gotten an infected foot, spilled bleach, and inhaled the fumes for hours, because he didn't know it wasn't good, and had other possibly dangerous experiences. We are trying to do our best as a family to help him, but we really need the help of an outside provider. He loves to live independently, but we are worried about him being able to continue to do that without , the support of Medicaid personnel. He has been struggling with these kind of issues and getting enough help for more than two years because of the shortage of staff willing to take these positions.