

Kathleen Hornbacher
Testimony on HB 33
Supporting the DD Workforce

My husband and I care for my brother, Eric, who has special needs. Eric is high-functioning, but does require lots of supervision and care. Eric also has a very bad heart, and must attend a cardio work out at the Cleveland Clinic three times per week. He also has activities that he likes to participate in, including bowling with Special Stars. My husband has Parkinsons Disease and is retired due to his disease. I work full time and commute 45 minutes one way to my job. We haven't had any support in place since Covid started. We very briefly had someone, but she did not work out due to her unreliability. We have reached out to numerous people that Eric's support administrator has sent to us and haven't had any success. They either don't respond, or once they find out that we live in Lakewood they don't want to travel that far. Caring for someone with disabilities is hard work, and takes dedication. You cannot expect someone to do the job and not pay them well.