

Kim Eilerman
Testimony on HB 33
Supporting the DD Workforce

I am currently the ICF Director over 2 facilities. One houses 62 people while the other one houses only 5. I am also a mother to an adult with ID and Autism. In my personal life I have had trouble maintaining staff to get my son to and from appointments so that I can maintain my job to pay for the roof over our heads. For my job everyday is a struggle to provide the basic care because there is not enough staff to do it. We pay our DSP's next to nothing and they leave for better paying jobs so that they do not have to work 3 jobs. Our individuals cannot make it to outings if we do not have staff, they cannot eat if they do not have staff, they become seriously ill if they do not have staff. Our staff are tired and burned out. They feel ignored by the system and the ones that do stay do it because they care. Care does not feed their families or they are absent parents. Many people on my team have sacrificed time with their kids and families in order to provide services.