

Lorraine Bees  
Testimony on HB 33  
Supporting the DD Workforce

Our son (26yo) has significant and multiple challenges. He is a happy and engaging young man that thrives on being a part of our everyday life. He is non-verbal, non-ambulatory, has significant visual issues, has very limited use of his fine motor skills and is cognitively impaired. He needs assistance with all activities - everyday. We have worked very hard and made many sacrifices to provide the assistance and supports he needs to live a full and engaged life. Day programs will not take him. We have been able to hire excellent independent providers in the past. With their assistance we are able to manage and provide for our beloved son. But in the past few years, providers are scarce. We cannot find qualified people willing to work with our son and be part of his community. The pay is not enough! This leaves our son without the care, supports and services he needs to live an engaged and meaningful life. As older parents, we are struggling to do this with limited assistance. This is hard work. We are pleading with the state to provide for a pay increase for the complex care individual so we and others similarly situated can find dedicated people willing to help us provide a loving and meaningful life for our son.