

Marha Panek
Testimony on HB 33
Supporting the DD Workforce

My 51 year old brother has Downs Syndrome. He lived at home with our mother until he got very sick in 2019. At the time Mom was 93 years old and was having a difficult time taking care of Matt. Matt moved to a group home in Cuyahoga county that year. The non-profit Welcome House organization has provided excellent care. However, there are times when staffing issues lead to a shortage of help. Additionally, the staff that work in ICFs are not paid enough for the work they do. It is hard work! As a society we need to do better. People who need compassionate care should be guaranteed quality caregivers. Caregivers should be respected for the difficult work they do and compensated monetarily.

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