

Mary Lynn Thornton
Testimony on HB 33
Supporting the DD Workforce

I am a mother of a 21 year old daughter with a dual diagnosis of Down Syndrome and Autism. We have been working for over a year with our county support administrator to find the right program in transition from High School to an adult day program. Due to budget constraints and the inability to attract, and be competitive in retaining qualified talent, these programs are unable to accept our children; especially within the higher needs acuity level C space. Parents and school systems are working along side our county support providers to try and brainstorm options, but for those families like ours that are facing transition, we are running out of time and options. Please assist us in advocating for our children to help providers be competitive in their budgets so they can effectively find and retain staffing so that our young adults can continue to contribute and thrive.