

Maureen Heffernan
Testimony on HB 33
Supporting the DD Workforce

My name is Maureen Heffernan and I am the parent of an adult son who has a developmental disability. He lives in his own apartment and while he is eligible for service from direct support professionals, we have not used those services for the past three years. Due to the extreme shortage of providers we feel those available should serve those who are most in need at this time. In addition, it has been very difficult to identify providers with the skills and interests needed to provide quality care for our son. When we have used providers in the past, whenever we found a skilled and motivated provider, they would soon leave for better paying employment. As we get older, there will come a day when my husband and I can no longer care for our son and we are deeply worried that skilled providers won't be available to him when that time comes. Please take action of support and vote for increased funding to raise the wages of workers in the DD system.