

Nettie Lambert  
Testimony on HB 33  
Supporting the DD Workforce

We value the home health aides serving in our home for many years. They relieve me, primary caregiver, for 12 hours daily from 7:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. 4 days per week. Her job tasks consist of being an evening companion to my traumatic brain injured sister by playing games, being her friend, and preparing her for bed. She oversees my sister's activities of daily living, feeds her breakfast and gets her ready to attend her daily workshop. On the surface, these tasks do not seem deserving of a raise; however, to perform these tasks day in and day out with compassion, patience, and most importantly understanding of the patient's diagnosis is worth a more than a fair working wage. I am fortunate that our worker took the time to learn about my sister's disability. We had some workers who were not motivated to meet or exceed expectations; they were fired. I believe the reason for lack of motivation is lack of pay and benefits. I would also call for tighter education in nurses' aide training. Some came to us not even knowing how to make a bed!

The job of health care home aid can be elevated by education, significant pay raise commensurate with education, and stringent monitoring of companies providing workers.

Please give every consideration to providing workers who literally become part of the family, with a living wage. Thank you for your time.