

Nichole Hancock
Testimony on HB 33
Supporting the DD Workforce

Hello, I have worked in this field for 12 years now, and I have lost a lot of time at home with my family, lost a lot of holidays with my family, family vacations. There were times, I worked 16 to 18 hours a day and seen my kids at night to wake them up. But this field has taught me so much, has helped me become a better mother, wife and friend. Why cause these individuals are worth every minute I spent with them, they teach you a whole new level of having a dream, and being able to help someone else is rewarding but secretly they helped me in more ways they could ever imagine, but the time we put into caring for them, yes it's not about the money or going in and making a paycheck, it's about earning and caring, DSP work hard for what we do, we are mothers/fathers, taxi drivers, chefs, medicine giving, when sick we are there for them, I just feel that we deserve so much more, then what we receive, it's not an easy job and not everyone can do it! Now I work in a day program where I am home with my children and husband, but we are so short staffed that I work as a DSP, transportation, coordinator and when I come home I have a son who is on the spectrum, but again they are WORTH IT!