

Pamela Simmons
Testimony on HB 33
Supporting the DD Workforce

My husband and I are both in our mid-50's and rely on DD caregivers to care for our adult daughter who is wheel-chair bound and requires 24/7 care. Since the pandemic and high inflation we have had an increasingly difficult time securing and keeping quality staff. We have both had to take off time from our full-time jobs to care for her when staff are not available or do not show up. We do not know how we will continue to do so without jeopardizing our jobs or whether one of us will be forced to quit all together. We have no idea how we will provide or protect her when we are unable to deliver her care as it is very physically demanding. Upon our attempts to recruit new staff, we are told that the pay rate is not high enough since they would make more staying on Medicaid or working at fast food but we are prevented by Medicaid law from supplementing to try to bridge the gap. We know of many other families that are just as desperate to secure care for their loved ones. Please do not turn a blind eye to these most vulnerable of our population.

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