

Patti Varsetti
Testimony on HB 33
Supporting the DD Workforce

I am a soon to be 70 year old grandmother who is a guardian to my developmentally disabled grandson. I have been his guardian for 27 years. He is now living in an ICF in Madison Ohio. I also work for a licensed waiver facility. This DD Crisis not only affects me personally but also affects me professionally. It is very scary to me to see how the shortage of staffing has done for my grandson quality of life. Right now I am very worried that where he is living might close. Where will he go. As I said I will be 70 this month and my husband is in his 70's and disabled. I wish I could take care of him but I can't. I can't even bring myself to think what will happen in the future when I won't be here. The staff need to be compensated for the job that they are doing. This population isn't going away, they need to be provided for. Every time I go to see him which I do regularly there is new staff. Providers need the funds to keep and train staff so they will stay. As I mentioned above I also work in this field and have for 21 years. I started 21 years ago as Staffing Manager and part of the medical department and 5 years ago I went to strictly doing Medical. I have seen first hand how this crisis affects the clients and there quality of life. The organization I work for had to close 3 homes this past year because of this crisis due to not enough staff. What a scary scenario this was for the client and there families. This crisis affects them not only in where they are living but also in their healthcare. This is on my mind constantly. Worrying when is it going to affect me with my grandson. This population DESERVE a decent quality of life but without staff this isn't going to happen. No family should have to worry about there loved one receiving proper care for a decent quality of life. If any one has spent any time with this population they would know what joy they can give to you and also how much they can give to society.