

Patty Campo
Testimony on HB 33
Supporting the DD Workforce

Hi. My name is Patty Campo. My daughter, Jennifer Campo, has multiple disabilities. She has profound mental and health issues. Her diagnosis is Rett Syndrome. She is 36 years old. My husband and I keep her in our home and will do so as long as we are able. However, and I mean an enormous HOWEVER, as we get older it becomes increasingly more difficult to do so. In order to give her the best possible care, we feel it is important for us to stay healthy in mind and spirit! Our daughter is our life and we are now at retirement age and would like to have some free time to ourselves. This remains a problem as it has throughout our marriage! The main reason stems from not getting help i.e. a home health aid and/or caregiver . We have especially suffered since COVID began due to the decrease in supports due to staffing issues for said aids. They simply do NOT get paid enough. This has been an on going issue for years!! Truthfully, it takes a certain type of individual to be a qualified caregiver. So couple that with the terrible pay scale and tasks they have to perform, this is and has been an uphill battle keeping enough staff and in turn getting the help we so desperately need. Isn't it time to pay these wonderful angels who decide to dedicate their lives to this selfless and rewarding career choice? Please, please consider our plea as parents of a disabled adult that we selflessly choose to care for. We need HELP! I know if our caregivers could get better compensation perhaps these issues would go away and we could finally get the help we deserve and desperately need. Thank you and God Bless.