

Rachael Abbruzzese  
Testimony on HB 33  
Supporting the DD Workforce

My name is Rachael Abbruzzese and I am submitting testimony because I am an Ohioan who has a son with Developmental Disabilities. I had to quit my job, which I loved and had great health insurance because of the lack of DSP's to help care for my son. I then became an Independent Provider and started billing as a parent/guardian/DSP. I am barely making it and struggle with good health coverage (I applied for Market Place insurance) and I owe taxes on all the claims I submit. I have been searching for available DSP's for over two years now but because of the low wages and lack of health care, no one is interested. I am my sons only caregiver and he's 24/7, I love him dearly but I'm exhausted and desperate for help. I urge lawmakers to take action to raise wages for workers in the DD system so that Ohioans like me and my son can get the supports we need to thrive. Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony and for your careful consideration of how to resolve this critical issue.

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