

Reina Russell  
Testimony on HB 33  
Supporting the DD Workforce

Hello! My name is Reina Russell, and I've been a DSP in Ohio for almost 4 years. When I first started we were adequately staffed- we had enough people to take care of our individuals with developmental disabilities. Now due to the shortage of DSP's due to low wages- we struggle and it's affecting our individuals. We take great care of them but it isn't fair to them when they cannot receive services due to a shortage in DSP's. They deserve better. They shouldn't suffer due to no one wanting to be in this field due to inadequate wages. I'd like to take into careful consideration this crisis- and hopefully resolve this serious issue so individuals in Ohio get the care and support they not only deserve but have the right to. Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.