

Sandra Giusti
Testimony on HB 33
Supporting the DD Workforce

My husband and I are 79 and 81 years old respectively. Our daughter is 53 and has lived in a group home since she was 38. I can see a difference in the available staff and problems with staffing. The salary of these caregivers is deplorable. It is not a living wage and, therefore, it is impossible to attract good personnel. Many of the homes and agencies are short staffed and over worked.

We are no longer capable of bringing her home to live with us. She cannot care for herself and needs care 24/7. We worry for her future and the future of all those with developmental disabilities who need help daily to live their lives in a safe manner.

We need lawmakers to raise wages so good persons can be attracted and so those that are presently working will remain. A fastfood worker or warehouse worker makes more money than the staff that lovingly supports our daughter.

Only action by legislators raising rates for direct support personnel to a living wage can solve this problem.