

Schelly Walls  
Testimony on HB 33  
Supporting the DD Workforce

I am the grandmother of a 12 year old with severe autism. My son is military and finally made it back to WPAFB for the next few years. The goal getting back home to Ohio was to have family support near by. When they moved back it took close to a year to begin ABA services for my grandson. He is non verbal with aggressive behaviors which can make it difficult to find a provider. He has a waiver and respite available thru Tricare but they can't find providers. No agency's have staffing available and when they find a private person who is interested it takes so long to get thru the process to get approved they lose interest. Last year my mother passed away and they didn't have anyone to stay with my grandson because my husband and I are their only help they have. It's hard to keep staffing at the autism school and ABA due to the pay scale. They cannot take him anywhere like the grocery or out yo his brothers activities which it constantly means the family has to split up for everything. The pay scale is so low for such an important position taking care of our vulnerable kids. So many places are hiring with better wages. We need help by raising the pay to help attract more DSPs. There are numerous times when our local DDS has failed to provide information if support in finding providers. We have so many examples and ideas we would love to share.