

Theresa Friedrichsen-Boyer  
Testimony on HB 33  
Supporting the DD Workforce

I have been in the field for 31 yrs and make \$16.63 an hour. Horrible pay for dedicated and quality services. I am responsible for other individuals lives on a daily basis. Continued training from CPR to delegated nursing. The only approved time off has been when I had Covid. I work no less than 55 hrs a week. At times I have had 101 hrs in a 7 day span. I am pulled from my own personal responsibilities to be here in the residential setting. We have 3 DSP's that cover 24/7. No relief, no staff, management does not help give reprieve. This workforce is lacking compassion, responsibility and care. Why would one want to work in DD field if they can work at Target or Burger King making more? I have witnessed a huge decline in client care. No motivation if you get paid peanuts. I have stayed in the field due to my compassion for the people I serve. Unfortunately, times are financially tough and the responsibility increases with demands. I have wiped tears, celebrated with the ones I serve, been there through Covid, dealt with losses. A very long 31 years of being under paid and under appreciated.