

Tina Severt  
Testimony on HB 33  
Supporting the DD Workforce

My daughter attends a day program M-F from 9-2, which means this timeline requires that I cannot work anywhere until at least 9:30, and I would have to leave work by 1:15 - and that is if I work within 10-15 miles of my home. These hours confine me and limit any additional employment options to basically zero as my daughter cannot be left home alone, and requires me to be with her at all times outside her Day Program hours. I also need to be able to pick my daughter up at any point during her Day Program hours in case of illness, injury, etc., which I have done many times. I tried to work nights, but it was difficult to get coverage at night and costly, so it was not cost-effective or beneficial to either of us. These circumstances continue to lock me into a limited income without the ability to increase it, despite my College Degree. I provide constant care and supervision for the remaining 143 hours every week that she is not at her Day Program, which is a pay rate of \$5.28 per hour, and when her Day Program was closed for the Covid shutdown, Summer breaks, holidays, or her illness, I make \$4.50 hr for 168 hrs per week. I also have to care for her when I'm sick with Covid/flu, sprained ankle, shoulder surgery, etc. I have no sick days off as an IP/OSL. OSL is an on-call 24/7-365 responsibility. We also have to complete daily and regular paperwork, complete continuing education yearly, pass First Aid/CPR/AED certification every other year, follow the requirements of her ISP daily, and be at her disposal for any and all of her needs 24 hrs a day - including the middle of the night, holidays, weekends, etc. I hope this brief snapshot offered some insight into what IP's of OSL and DSP's are required to do with such little pay. I also hope this information has helped encourage you to not only support, but push for a much needed increase in our pay rate to at least 50% to help us feel that our service is not only essential, but also recognized and appreciated. Thank you.