

Torrie Rickey  
Testimony on HB 33  
Supporting the DD Workforce

My Name is Torrie Rickey. I am submitting a testimony on this issue because I work at a non-profit organization where we care for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities. We work close with portage county DD and Summit county DD boards trying to get enough staff to care for all of our individuals. The work we do is so incredibly important. The lives of these individuals and the care they need should be as high priority as any other person without disabilities. The caregivers we hire work so hard and they are not only caring for themselves, families and their own children, they are giving a piece of themselves to individuals who start out as complete strangers. The physical toll that can happen is sometimes large but even larger, the emotional and mental toll. These caregivers deserve to be paid fairly and adequately for the work they do! I am requesting the support and votes in favor of increasing funding to raise wages for workers in the DD system, I hope the legislators' take this seriously. Come in and meet our individuals and their families and the staff that care for them. Try and put yourself into our shoes so you can understand how desperately we need this funding.

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