

Virginia Cradlebaugh  
Testimony on HB 33  
Supporting the DD Workforce

Direct support staff and individuals who receive care have been impacted in a critical way. I am the guardian, caregiver and mother of an adult with special needs. For more than three years, there were no openings due to staff shortages at day arrays. Having relief from her care during the day is impacted by low wages set. Low wages have resulted in staff shortages. The direct support staff ratio to individuals is much too high due which makes an unsuitable and unsafe environment to support my daughter. Please consider adequate wage increases for Staff employed at Day Arrays and personal caregivers as well. The small percentage increase does not make up for the decades of low wages without Increases. Please help the caregivers and direct support staff to be compensated adequately. It would make all of our lives healthy, satisfying, increase longevity and provide relief.