



Ohio Self Determination Association

OSDA creates change that empowers people with disabilities and their families to direct their lives.

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Testimony for HB 49 Budget Request by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services
March 22, 2017

RE: My Support for HB 49-State Budget FY18-19 of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

Chairman Romanchuk, Ranking Member Sykes and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for giving me time to speak to you today. I am Marci Straughter and am here today to speak for the Ohio Self Determination Association and its Council of Ohio Leaders of which I am a member. I am speaking up today to support the state budget request made by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.

We support the funds that will continue almost 3,000 waivers created in the last budget and for 1,300 new ones in the new budget proposal so that people who want to leave nursing homes have the opportunity and those on a waiting list can choose to stay in the community with a waiver and not have to accept nursing home placement.

We support increases and changes in waiver payments and more opportunities for shared living so that people with waivers can find and keep staff who are well trained.

We support the increase in remote monitoring as it saves money and increases the independence of a person with a disability.

We support changes in the structure and an increase in rates for ICFs so that payment to these providers is more in line with current times.

Medicaid waivers give more people with developmental disabilities, like me, an opportunity to choose where and how they receive the support they need to live their lives.

I live in Whitehall in Franklin County and get services from the SELF Waiver. It provides the services I need today and can change if my needs change. I'm more involved in decisions that are made about my life. The self-waiver has helped me to be more independent and responsible. I am better able to speak up for myself and others. My services helped me in different ways. Community Inclusion gives me staff support to do things I need to get done in the community.


Integrated Employment helps me to do what I enjoy the most, Public Speaking. It allows me to get the help I need from my coach and provider to put my speeches together and provides me with transportation to my different speech locations. This service also gives me the support I need to be a member of Ohio DD Council and to chair its Technology Committee.

Also I have a Support Broker, who helps me understand and direct my different services, find new providers when I need them and manage my waiver budget.

Ohio's last state budget sent a strong message that people with developmental disabilities should get the support needed to be a part of their communities like everyone else. Thank you for your part in that. I urge you to continue that and to support the budget recommendations of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. Not everyone with a disability is as lucky as me to have a waiver.

If you have questions, or if we can provide additional information, please let us know.

Respectfully,



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