

June 6th, 2017
Ohio Senate Finance – Full Committee

Re: Written Input to the Ohio Senate Finance Committee

I am the President & CEO of Sunshine Communities, serving constituents with Developmental Disabilities from multiple counties in Northwest Ohio. Also, we are members of the Values and Faith Alliance which includes Faith-Based and Not-For-Profit providers of services to Ohioans with Developmental Disabilities all around Ohio.

I am writing today to request that the Ohio Senate restore HB 49 to language as originally introduced in several areas briefly outlined below:

- Please restore language for Ventilator-dependent ICF/IID residents (R.C. 5124.25 with conforming change in R.C. 5124.15). This eliminates the requirement that a Medicaid recipient be under age 22 to receive ventilator outlier services as long as the persons continues to be ventilator dependent. This will save money by allow Ventilator-dependent adults to continue to be served in Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF) and reduce Hospital admittance and Hospital stays.
- I request restoring the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) spending authority in the ICF bed tax line for FY 18 (just like FY 19 currently in the bill). This is not general revenue funds (GRF) as statutorily collected bed taxes are levied on Intermediate Care Facilities. The funds are collected, but the House did not allow it to be spent in FY 18. Thus, please restore spending authority for \$9,558,148 in non-GRF line 653606 and \$15,594,873 in the federal Medicaid Services line 653654 in FY18.
- HB 49 House passed by the House included an amendment may permit County Boards of Developmental Disabilities unilateral authority to suspend provider certification. It is my understanding that this amendment was not discussed with partners and providers in advance. Also, I believe the Department of Developmental Disabilities is in opposition as well. Moreover, I understand the amendment was not submitted by the Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities (OACB). Currently I believe OACB and counties wish to work with providers and partners on how County Boards of DD can best achieve quality assurance and compliance. Thus, to my knowledge, this amendment is not supported by DODD or much of the DD community and I request it be removed in the Senate Finance Committee. (Sec. 5123.1611 & .1612)
- Finally, as I realize funds are very tight in this two-year budget, the payment rates for Intermediate Care Facilities for FY 2018 should remain unchanged. As we have not received an increase in a number of years and our costs continue to increase, please restore in FY 2019, the provision for an increase of 2.5% in total costs – to be included only with the adoption of a new reimbursement methodology with DODD.

Thank you for your consideration of these very important issues and please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,


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