



Testimony on House Bill 166 State Biennium Budget

Kimberly King, Home Care Network, Inc.

April 10th, 2019

Chairman Romanchuk, Ranking Member West, and Members of the House Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, thank you for allowing me to provide testimony today on HB166—the state budget. My name is Kimberly King and I am the Chief Operating Officer at Home Care Network, Inc. where we cover all 88 counties in Ohio to provide services for medically fragile children and “seasoned” citizens. I come before you today asking for your assistance in increasing the Home Health Medicaid rates in Ohio.

The lack of investment in Home Health is creating a critical access issue for service providers who can no longer compete with fast food, grocery stores and retail employers who compete for the same workforce. Unserved and underserved Ohioans will have no choice but to receive care in a more expensive institutional settings when we cannot hire and retain caregivers. With expensive new regulatory requirements such as MyCare, Managed Medicaid and EVV, my agency’s ability to continue to provide Medicaid services is now in jeopardy.

Unfunded mandates, cash flow interruptions and a critical shortage in workforce has stretched and pushed homecare providers to (and in some cases, beyond) our limit.

- We need an investment in home and community based care that allows us to adequately compensate our caregivers and provide them with benefits. Please consider a rate increase for HCBS services—both for PASSPORT and skilled nursing state plan services.
- We need managed care plans with a rate floor for homecare that ensures that the Medicaid rate is something we can make future plans on.
- I would like you to consider allowing Medicaid providers who provide full time Medicaid services in Ohio to participate in Ohio Medicaid as a health plan. For those healthcare providers who work full time to help the sick and the frail maintain their independence at home, providing them with health insurance would be the edge we need to bring those caring providers back from the grocery store and back from coffee shop...

Ohio’s Medicaid system is stretched, stressed, and overextended from the changes, ad hoc demands, and demonstrations we’ve endured over the past 6 years. It’s time for Ohio to help our home care providers.

It’s for these reasons that I humbly ask for your help with increasing the home health Medicaid rates in this budget. Thank you again for allowing me to testify today. I’m more than happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.