

# ANNE GRADY SERVICES

A non-profit agency  
whose mission is to  
provide dignity, respect  
and quality service to people with  
disabilities and their families,  
always offering  
opportunities to reach their  
highest potential.

*ANNE GRADY CENTER  
NOAH'S HOUSE (RESPIRE FOR CHILDREN)  
VOCATIONAL SERVICES  
THERAPY SERVICES  
COMMUNITY RESIDENCES  
SUPPORTED LIVING SERVICES  
JACK MIXON NATATORIUM  
DISCOVERY DAY PROGRAM  
ADULT RESPIRE PROGRAM  
PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM  
COMMUNITY TRANSIT SERVICES (CTS)*

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An Equal Opportunity Employer  
and Service Provider

April 5, 2019

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Finance Health and Human Services  
Sub-Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of  
DODD and OOD's proposed budget.

I am the Associate Executive Director of the Anne Grady Services in Holland,  
Ohio. I have worked in the field of Developmental Disabilities for over a decade.  
Our agency serves over 500 people in Residential Settings (ICF and Waiver), Day  
Programs, Transportation and Respite Care.

I am writing for two reasons; first to show support for the OOD payment  
increases and second to support increased pay for direct support professionals.  
We employ over 400 staff. Our direct care staff quite frequently must work two  
jobs to hopefully make ends meet. The wages they are currently paid makes it  
difficult for them financially and difficult for us to recruit and retain staff. We  
are in a direct care crisis! The people we care for are the most vulnerable people  
in our society. Being able to pay those who care for them a decent wage is the  
humanitarian thing to do. You can make a positive difference in many lives.

The cost of providing quality and safe transportation has increased significantly  
since the non medical transportation service started in 2008. The per trip rates  
remain unchanged from that date. The cost of employing drivers, paying for  
fuel and purchasing and maintaining vehicles has greatly increased. Please  
strongly consider investing some of the budget dollars in transportation services.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. I appreciate the hard  
work you do and appreciate the challenges you face with so many requests you  
must receive. I ask that you give this cause strong consideration and again thank  
you.

Sincerely,

Steven J. King, CPA  
Associate Executive Director