



**Testimony on HB 166**  
**House Finance Health and Human Services Sub-Committee**

Dear Chairman Romanchuck, Ranking Member West, and esteemed committee members:

I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify on HB 166. My name is Melissa Morelli and I am the Regional Director of Active Day and we are located in Hamilton County, Ohio. We are a for-profit that provides supports for approximately 450 adults with developmental disabilities. The populations we serve have co-occurring issues and concerns. They bring their own uniqueness with medical and/or behavioral challenges. Our organization continues to operate work centers. These work centers provide opportunities for individuals to learn new skills and provides learning opportunities to become employed and more engaged in the community.

I am very supportive of the budget initiatives outlined by Governor DeWine, Director Davis for the Department of Developmental Disabilities. With these budget initiatives and the leadership of Director Davis I am hopeful that we can increase the rates to ensure that we are providing the quality of services that the challenging folks we serve can continue to learn, grow and become more engaged in their communities.

I am submitting this testimony for these reasons-we need to find high quality DSP's to continue to support, guide, train, teach, and coach our individuals to continue to find their passions and desires in life.

**First, I want to show my support for the funding that is included for transportation in the budget submitted by Director Davis.** We are not currently not providing NMT, however we will begin this new journey by years end. However, people use NMT services now to get to and from the work centers and community experiences. We must continue this service as everyone needs to have access to their communities and experience new things and have opportunities.

**Second, I want to share the need for updated rates for day services for individuals with developmental disabilities** The rates have not changed since they were implemented. Our organization is working very hard to turn the ship to go from facility based to community based and it is so very challenging with the current rates. The rates must change to ensure that we continue quality services and especially the challenges we face to get people we serve even more connected with the community. The increase in funding will provide us with the opportunity to potentially hire more staff and especially more qualified DSP's. DSP's are most critical team member of the people we serve.

Thank you again for the opportunity and privilege to share my thoughts with you. If I can ever be of any help in this process please let me know.

Respectfully,

Melissa Morelli