

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 3, 2019

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

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

I am the Executive Director of Anne Grady Services in Holland, Ohio. I have worked in the field of Developmental Disabilities for over 36 years. Our agency serves over 500 people in Residential Settings (ICF and Waiver), Day Programs, Transportation, and Respite Care.

The reason I work and stay in this field is because people with developmental disabilities deserve dignity, respect, and quality care. We are better people when we interact and learn from them. They are incredible people who have been dealt difficult challenges. They put my life in perspective.

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.

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,

Roger Fortener, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Anne Grady Services

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