

Ohio House Subcommittee on Health and Human Services
Chairperson, the Honorable Mark Romanchuk

Please accept my appreciation in advance for your attention. My name is Dennis Grant and I am the Executive Director of United Rehabilitation Services of Greater Dayton (URS). URS has a 63 year history of providing critical services and supports to individuals with disabilities from six weeks of age to well into their eighties. URS serves a large catchment area surrounding Dayton Ohio with the only 5 Star Rated Childcare Center and CARF Accredited Adult Day and Voc Hab program with RN's and LPN's onsite as well as OT, PT and Speech therapists to care for medically fragile children and adults. This ensures their families can maintain their employment and contribute to the Ohio workforce and not become dependent upon other government services or subsidies. We serve approximately 1,500 clients a year and close to 400 each day. We employ 115 people of which 32 are DSP's who we greatly value. Our staff is at the core of what we do and it is essential that we can pay them a fair wage for the critical life changing services they provide.

We are supportive of the increase in DSP wages for HPC proposed by Director Davis. The workforce crisis we face threatens our ability to provide for the daily health and safety of our clients and meet their needs. In addition, we hope that you will consider that the original formula for establishing fees/rates for Day Hab and Voc Hab did not take into account the demands now placed on Agencies like URS to be in the community each day and to maintain much higher staff to participant ratios than typically needed in a congregate setting. This "unfunded mandate" places URS in a very challenging situation.

The cost of daily transportation into the community is also a challenge although we are committed to supporting those we serve in using this opportunity to gain greater independence participation in their community. We are very supportive of establishing NMT rates for community access and an increase in NMT rates, particularly for flexible use of accessible vehicles for transporting participants to daily programming.

I would also like to state that we fully endorse the budget proposal submitted for Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) by Director Miller. This proposal will ensure that URS and other Agencies can provide meaningful vocational services to the thousands seeking employment in the community. We know that work dignifies human beings and is the greatest path for the people we serve to independence and full inclusion.

Thank you again for providing me with this opportunity to present this testimony to you and the members of the Subcommittee on Health and Human Services.

Respectfully,

Dennis G. Grant
Executive Director

United Rehabilitation Services