



May 23, 2019

Ohio Senate
Senate Finance Committee

Chairperson Dolan and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am Scott A DeLong and writing to provide testimony on behalf of CRSI where I serve as the President. CRSI is Non-Profit agency started in 1976 in Champaign County. Over the course of past 43 years, we have grown to serve over 550 individuals in 25 counties primarily in the western half of the state. This number is down 200 individuals since 2014, as we have had to give notice over the past several years, as we are not able to attract staff to provide necessary services. Currently, we employ over 900 individuals in those same 25 counties. CRSI provides ICF, HPC Waiver, Day Array, NMT, Behavior and Nursing supports throughout the same region. We value our individuals, the DSPs that serve them and most importantly the ability for both of those groups to become active and involved community members.

I want to express my sincerest appreciate to Governor DeWine, Director Davis, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, and the Ohio House of Representatives who, separately and collectively, have made an unprecedented investment in services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

I am appreciative of the administration's proposal to invest in the homemaker/personal care service to help increase the base DSP component providing that service. This increase will allow providers the ability to reward those employees with tenure as well as increase the starting rate of pay to become more competitive with other employers within the region. I am even more appreciative for the commitment from your colleagues in the House to build off the DeWine Administration's executive budget to further increase the base component for the DSP providing the homemaker/personal care service. Our hope at CRSI is that this increase will be an encouragement to the 10-20 year employee who has seen wage compaction occur with the past several increases as we have been attempting to attract additional staff with a higher starting rate of pay. This increase and the significance of it is the ability to bump the starting rate of pay as well as reward those long-term employees. This win for all employees would attract new employees allowing our over worked long-term employees more time with their respective families and provide a less stressful work environment than is already at hand. With additional staff, we can serve more individuals, allow more community participation for those we serve and

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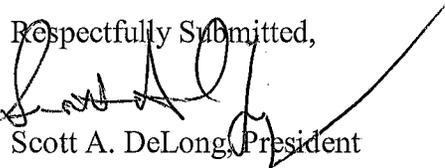


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have a more rejuvenated staff who has not worked 70 hours per week. As an agency committed to providing services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, the investment helps ensure my agency can continue to provide our current array of services.

The developmental disabilities services field agrees on the direction and actions taken to increase our support and positive outcomes for individuals with disabilities and their valued DSPs. This is a compliment to the current administration under Governor DeWine, self-advocates, parents, families, county boards, private providers, and the Ohio House and Senate. On behalf of my agency, my staff, and the individuals we support, I encourage you, Senator Burke and Members of this Committee, to support the proposed budget provisions relevant to the Department of Developmental Disabilities. Together we will succeed.

Respectfully Submitted,


Scott A. DeLong, President