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WESTERN RESERVE ILC

House Committee on Finance and Appropriations
Health and Human Services Subcommittee
Testimony of Director Pam Davies
Western Reserve Independent Living Center (WRILC)
March 13, 2017

Chairman Romanchuck, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Health and Human Services Subcommittee, my name is Pam Davies. As Director of Western Reserve Independent Living Center, I would like to give our support to budget recommendations of the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD).

The DODD budget could not be successful to the services they provide without the support of their partners; county boards of developmental disabilities, private providers, and state and local advocacy organizations, and the families and individuals who they serve, giving their input to the decision making and budget recommendations. This is a true example of department that is truly accountable and caring of the citizens they serve.

We are a nonprofit 501C3 agency that works with individuals with all disabilities and ages to empower them to be as independent as possible. We provide independent living skills, information and referral, advocacy, peer support, and nursing home and youth transitions for four counties (Ashtabula, Columbiana, Mahoning, and Trumbull.)

We have worked closing with DODD through the transitioning process, an Art studio we collaborated with for artists with disabilities, and several advocacy situations locally where the need arose. We are developing a pilot program where individuals with developmental disabilities can participate in a peer support and independent living skill group, as well as pre-employment training, and a stipend for working on a trial basis. This project increases our further collaboration with the local Developmental Disabilities Council. On behalf of the disability community, thank you for your leadership and support in serving those with disabilities.

Pam Davies, Executive Director, WRILC