



Robert E. Heinzerling
Executive Director

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Good afternoon Chairman Hackett, Ranking Member Tavares and members of the Senate Finance Health and Medicaid Subcommittee. My name is Bob Heinzerling and I am the Executive Director of the Heinzerling Foundation. Heinzerling Foundation is an Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID) in Columbus, Ohio serving 208 non-ambulatory individuals with severe and profound developmental disabilities. The residents we serve are those with the highest needs in the Developmental Disability spectrum; they require 24-hour support for the tasks of daily living, including mobility, eating, dressing, all personal hygiene tasks; most of our residents have significant orthopedic involvement and a high level of medical needs. Heinzerling Foundation is also a major employer providing jobs to over 500 mostly full time people.

I am here this afternoon to express my support for a provision included in the Executive version of House Bill 49, the Main Operating Budget, which would eliminate the age cap on the current ventilator add-on. Heinzerling Foundation is one of only a few providers in Ohio certified by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) to provide ventilator services in an ICF/IID facility.

For the past four years, DODD has provided an add-on so that children on ventilators could be served in an ICF. The original intent behind this add-on was to allow ventilator dependent children living in hospitals with an opportunity to live in a less restrictive, home like environment designed to meet their needs. In addition, the cost to serve these children in ICFs was, and continues to be, significantly less expensive. According to data provided by DODD, the cost to serve a ventilator dependent child in an ICF is approximately \$2,000 a day less expensive than the cost to serve them in a hospital.

As can be expected, these children become adults, defined as over the age of 22, and automatically lose their eligibility for the funding add-on. The Executive version of the budget removed the current age cap ensuring that the add-on continues, as those ventilator dependent children become ventilator dependent adults. Unfortunately, this provision was removed from the House version of the budget and I respectfully request that this provision be re-inserted in the Senate.

Heinzerling Foundation currently provides specialized care for five individuals who are dependent on ventilators. However, only two of these individuals receive the add-on because they are under age 22. In order to provide the care required by all five of these individuals, we have added three full-time nurses to our staff and increased the hours of our respiratory therapist. Two years ago, we absorbed an unexpected, but required expense of \$20,000 to make changes to the electrical

The mission of the Heinzerling Foundation is to provide a loving and nurturing environment that enriches the development, education and quality of life of individuals with severe or profound developmental disabilities.

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system and equipment in the two bedrooms in which these residents live. Participation in the ventilator add-on program requires additional time and documentation by the physician and nursing staff. Age makes no difference in the level of specialized care that each of these five residents requires and receives.

Additionally, I ask that you support the 2.5% increase to ICFs in the second year of the biennium, which was also included in the Executive version of H.B. 49 but removed in the House. The new proposed ICF reimbursement formula is both formulated and predicated on this second year funding increase. ICFs are an invaluable component of the entire Developmental Disability residential spectrum and one that historically has not received new monies.

I extend invitations to each of you to visit us, meet our residents and staff, and see first-hand the nature of our work. I appreciate the opportunity to testify and I will gladly answer any questions.