

Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
Senate Bill 333 – Proponent Testimony
Tuesday, September 1, 2020

Chairman Hoagland, Vice Chair Schaffer, Ranking Member O'Brien, and members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present proponent testimony on Senate Bill 333. I am Amy Kissinger. I am the Business Director for the Morgan County Board of Developmental Disabilities. I am an elected school board member for the Cambridge City School District, and the President-Elect of the Southeast Region of the Ohio School Boards Association, so I understand the importance of this bill from many levels.

The Morgan County Board of DD serves 134 individuals in Morgan County who have intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our annual budget is \$1.2M. We currently have 9 full time employees with 2 unfilled positions. Approximately 55 individuals receive services funded by a Medicaid waiver. The remaining individuals receive a variety of locally-funded services, typically described as Family Support Services.

Our estimated tax revenue loss due to the sale of the AEP land to ODNR is approximately \$28,000. While this amount may not seem significant, it is just one of many variables facing our program making forecasting incredibly challenging. Examples of these variables are the current discussion of increasing Medicaid waiver service rates and extreme disruption in utilization of services due to the pandemic. And then there are our local tax levies, our largest of which is on the ballot this fall. This will be our first time on the ballot since property values were recently adjusted, and of course, the first time attempting to renew a levy during a pandemic, while our voting constituents are dealing with their personal economic impact of the pandemic.

We have been providing additional services to individuals because of the pandemic, such as groceries. While this is not a large expense in relation to our budget, it is an indication to us that the families we serve are struggling more than they were before the pandemic. We are committed to continuing to monitor and meet those needs, but it represents another moving target, adding to the difficulty of budget forecasting.

We understand that the financial impact of this land sale is more significant for others, and that the full financial impact has not yet occurred. It is not only for us that we advocate, but for all of our collaborative agencies in our region and the very important services to our shared residents that will be impacted.

In these challenging and uncertain times, we would greatly appreciate your support of SB 333 and the expansion of the PILT program to mitigate the loss of property tax revenue by our region.