



1517 Chestnut Street, Coshocton, Ohio 43812

May 14th, 2019

Ohio Senate
Finance Subcommittee on Health and Medicaid

Chairperson Hackett and Esteemed Committee Members,

My name is Lisa Reed and I am writing to provide testimony on behalf of RHDD where I serve as the Executive Director. RHDD is a private, non-profit organization, providing supports for people who have a developmental disability. We have been in business for 43 years, fulfilling the Mission of our founders who were parents of adult children with IDD. We work predominately in Southeastern Ohio, within in 11 Counties providing in-home supports, Employment Services and adult day array supports for adults and children who have a developmental disability. RHDD serves nearly 300 people with IDD and we employ over 325 staff; the majority of which are Direct Support Professionals.

I want to express my deepest gratitude 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 average wage of DSPs providing that service. I am even more appreciative for the commitment from your colleagues in the House to build off of the DeWine Administration's executive budget to further increase the average wage of a DSP providing the homemaker/personal care service. RHDD is a small enough agency that I personally know many of our DSP staff, and see the struggle they face to support their families on DSP wages. We employ many single Moms who work overtime, nights and Holidays to provide for their children. They are deeply committed professionals who want nothing more than to provide quality services for the people they support each day and make enough money to also be able to support their children. Increasing the wage of DSP staff will not only enhance the DSP quality of life,



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but will also go far to promote consistency for the people we serve. Consistency will be achieved through DSP staff no longer being forced to leave the profession that they love, to work in manufacturing or some other field that can pay more than our field has historically been able to afford.

As an agency committed to providing services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, the investment helps ensure RHDD can continue to provide our array of services.

The developmental disabilities services field is in agreement on the direction and actions to be 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 RHDD, our 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,

Lisa Reed, Executive Director

RHDD