



*Creating opportunities...Enriching lives.*

Ohio Senate  
Finance Committee  
May 28, 2019

Chairperson Dolan and Esteemed Senate Finance Committee Members,

I am Lina Workman and writing to provide testimony on behalf of Koinonia where I serve as the Director of ICF. Koinonia is one of the largest providers in Cuyahoga County that provides services to Individuals with Developmental Disabilities. In my Department alone we serve close to 140 individuals and within the agency have over 500 employees. My passion for this field drives from having a sibling with Developmental Disabilities.

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 and the Ohio House's proposal to invest in the homemaker/personal care service to help increase the average wage of DSPs providing that service. Staff turnover within our agency is the highest I have ever seen. We are struggling to recruit skilled professionals. We are competing or I should say we are not able to compete with other local businesses that have higher start rates. We train our staff to provide support and take care of individuals that require high medical care, and intense behavioral challenges. Our turnover rate is very high, and we struggle with retention. 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 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. On behalf of my agency, my staff, and the individuals we support, I encourage you, Senator Dolan and Members of this Committee, to support the proposed budget provisions relevant to the Department of Developmental Disabilities. Together we will succeed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lina Workman, Director of ICF  
Koinonia Homes, Inc.