



5/11/2020

To: Chairman Ecklund and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

Re: SB 308

Chairman Ecklund and Esteemed Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Peter Moore and I am the President and CEO of the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA). OPRA is a statewide trade association that represents over 180 private businesses and non-profits that provide Medicaid-funded long-term healthcare services and supports to nearly 38,500 Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). They collectively employ over 26,500 employees.

Our Members are working hard to provide essential services on the frontlines to Ohioans with I/DD since the beginning of this pandemic. They reacted swiftly and made hard decisions to keep the people they serve and their staff as safe and healthy as possible. They are developing new and innovative ways to deliver services. They are working to secure personal protective equipment without being a top priority for most distributors. Many are offering incentives and rewards to keep their staff engaged and motivated during this time of fear and anxiety

Our Members are taking on this crisis with minimal financial assistance from the state and federal government and now many are close to exhausting their savings. A COVID-19 related lawsuit could put many our Members out of business, potentially leaving many Ohioans without the services they need to live their lives.

OPRA is greatly appreciative of the committee for taking up this issue during this uncertain time. We are supportive of the intent of Senate Bill 308. However, we fear the current language may leave some gray area of liability protection for some of the services our Members provide. We understand an amendment is being considered that would explicitly include providers of developmental disability services in this protections and would request its inclusion into SB 308. We strongly support this amendment and the expansion of these protections within the bill.

I am happy to respond to any questions the Committee may have via email at pmoore@opra.org.

Thank you,

Peter J. Moore
President and CEO
Ohio Provider Resource Association
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