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**Testimony on HB 110  
House Finance Committee**

**Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Crawley, and Esteemed Committee Members,**

**I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to offer this testimony on Ohio's operating budget!**

My name is Amy Yerian and I am the Program Manager of Career Activity Center and we are located in on the far west side of Franklin County. We are a not-for-profit Adult Day Hab that provides supports for over 50 Individuals currently Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (We had over 120 pre covid).

**I am very supportive of the budget initiatives outlined by Governor DeWine, Director Davis for the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD). With these budget initiatives and the leadership of Director Davis** (Ohioans with developmental and intellectual disabilities will continue to receive the vital services that organizations like mine provide.

I am writing to encourage you to consider extending and to expand STEP services for community-based services in Adult Day array. The step services give opportunity for 1 on 1 services that normally would not be provide in the adult day services. Through the step services, we as day hab providers saw the individual evolved into self-driven and motivated people. For some, our facility-based group day hab, they were reserved, more dependent of staff for choices and direction, quiet, and at times swallowed up by the size of the groups. Now with the 1 on 1 step services, they have come out of their shell, more self-directed, vocal of their needs and wants, more independent of their choices. individuals plan their time with the staff. They look things up online to see where to go and what to see. They talk openly about what is going on in the world or their life. When we first started, the staff would come back from the adventure and be astonished of how different the individual is with them instead how they were here inside the building. One staff did not even know that the individual could say that many words.

Also, we saw another change, behaviorally. We have an individual who has having attention seeking behavior in the facility, aggressive towards others and property. We started the 1:1 step service and was a little hesitate with his past behaviors. But with STEP, there is no need attention seeking. You have the full attention of the 1 staff. Basically, since October, this individual has had 0 behaviors with the 1 :1 staff doing community services for 3 hours for 2 days a week. This is a huge accomplishment for this individual. He is volunteering delivering meals and doing projects for nonprofit volunteer services, Life Care Alliance. It is so wonderful to see this young man grow and become a member of the community.

I cannot stress enough how these services changed our individual but also our mind set on what services are needed. Unfortunately, the STEP services are set to expire in April 2021. We really need the funding as an option for individuals to choose in their plan.

**To best support these services and the Ohioans who receive and provide them, I encourage you to support the addition of the following initiatives into Ohio's biennium budget:**

- Increase general revenue fund appropriations in DODD's budget to fund much needed Homemaker and Personal Care, Day and Vocational Services and Nonmedical Transportation Medicaid home and community based waiver services rate increase. *These increases will provide much needed funds for Direct Support Professional (DSP) wages, support for other front-line professionals and sustain the infrastructure necessary to provide our services.*
- Increase general revenue fund appropriations in DODD's budget to support the reimbursement formula for intermediate care facilities (ICF).
- Support a budget amendment that would allow ICFs to choose between a reimbursement rate freeze or a continuation of the formula for the first year of the biennium.
- Support the creation of a Task Force to address our system's workforce challenges. *This Task Force will identify several initiatives and projects designed to help providers recruit and retain a qualified workforce.*
- Support the as introduced budget for Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

With your leadership, together we can ensure these services are available to the Ohioans that so greatly need them! **Thank you again, for the opportunity and privilege to bring my concerns before you and if I can ever be of any help in this process, please let me know.**

Regards,

Amy Yerian

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