

**Testimony on HB 110
House Finance Committee**

March 8, 2021

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 Dan Connors and I am the President/CEO of St. Joseph Home of Cincinnati, and we are located in Sharonville, OH, in Southwest Ohio, and we serve individuals in Hamilton, Butler, Warren, and Clermont counties. We are a not-for-profit business that provides supports for 120 Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities and we employ 230 employees.

I am very supportive of the budget initiatives outlined by Governor DeWine and 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.

St. Joseph Home provides critical residential, day and respite services to both children and adults with medically complex developmental disabilities. Additionally, St. Joseph Home is one of a few intermediate care facilities (ICF) in Ohio that provide residential services to adults and children who are ventilator dependent. We also provide day and respite services to individuals, including vent dependent individuals, who live in home environments. The additional resources outlined below will allow us to continue to fund the high numbers of staff that we need to provide services to these individuals, who have intense support needs. Without places like St. Joseph Home, these individuals would likely have to live in acute care settings, which would be both costlier to the Medicaid system and offer lesser quality of life to the individual.

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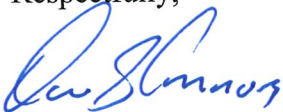
St. Joseph Home is a non-profit ministry of the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati.

To best support these services and the Ohioans who receive and provide them, I encourage you to add 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.*

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.

Respectfully,



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