



March 9, 2021

**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 Jim Steffey and I am the CEO of Resident Home Corp., DBA Envision and we are located in Cincinnati and service Hamilton, Butler, Clermont and Warren counties. We are a not for profit business that provides supports for over 600 Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities and we employ 210 people.

**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.

Envision provides supports critical to the health and welfare of some of Ohio's most vulnerable children and adults. **To successfully provide the supports necessary for Ohioans with developmental disabilities to contribute and participate in our communities requires caring, compassionate, well-trained employees.** Historically, low paying, high stress positions have resulted in high staff turnover, which has negatively impacted the quality of services to people with developmental disabilities. With your support, recent funding increases have allowed us to significantly increase wages for our Direct Support Professionals and to begin reducing turnover in this critical position. **This is why supporting additional investments in our workforce is critically important to not only the success of our services, but also to the success of individuals with developmental disabilities.**

**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.*

# ENVISION



SEE BEYOND 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,

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