



**THE EPILEPSY CENTER
OF NORTHWEST OHIO**

*Serving People with Seizure Disorders
and
Those with Developmental Disabilities*

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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 Roy Cherry and I am the CEO of The Epilepsy Center of Northwest Ohio, and we are located in Maumee Ohio providing services in Lucas County. We are a not for profit business that provides supports for over 45 Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities and have over 100 employees.

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.

Here at The Epilepsy Center we provide a wide range of services that depend on Medicaid funding exclusively. This includes caring for the individuals in a residential setting, providing adult day services, transportation and money management. We have continued to reinvest in our agency's employees striving to increase the direct support professional wage, as we understand the importance of their position to the system. With continued increases in funding, we have been able to manage this and provide excellent care to 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.*

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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