



**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 David Rastoka and I am the CEO/Owner of Advancing Abilities Inc, and we are located in Pike, Ross and Scioto Counties. We are a for-profit that provides supports for 120 Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities and we employ 238 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.

We are a very unique and essential service that helps people that cannot help themselves. The direct support professionals (DSPs) along with my management staff are so compassionate and courageous with their time, talents and unwavering dedication to Ohioans with developmental disabilities. I 100% support the budget funding initiatives to be able to continue to provide these services and support my employees from a wage and health benefit standpoint, along with providing all of the needed supplies, food and shelter to each and every person we support with a disability.

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,

Dave Rastoka

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