



Deborah Dulaney, *Chair*
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Choices In Community Living, Inc.

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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 Roustio and I am the Chief Program Officer of Choices in Community Living, Inc, and we are located in Dayton Ohio but serve in 5 counties. We are a not for profit, that provides supports for 300 Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities and we employ 300 employees.

I am very supportive of the budget initiatives outlined by Governor DeWine and Director Davis for the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), and Director Miller for Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities. 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 serve individuals living in group homes, those living on their own and those living with families. We operate day programming in YMCA facilities and other community settings to encourage diversity and acceptance. We even employ individuals to help them get skills needed for community jobs

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).

assisting people with developmental disabilities to access safe, healthy and meaningful lives in the community since 1985

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- 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 (keep if applicable)

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,

David Roustio

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