

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 Huntington and I am the Program Administrator for CRSI and we are located in some 30 counties though I serve in Knox and Seneca. We are a nonprofit that provides supports for over 300 Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities and we employ approximately 900 employees.

I am very supportive of the budget initiatives outlined by Governor DeWine, Director Davis for the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), and Director Miller for Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD). 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.

CRSI provides a variety of services to Ohioans with disabilities often filling gaps where other providers have been unable to serve. Specifically in Knox and Seneca County we have successfully developed and maintained 6 six be ICFs successfully doing our part in downsizing State operated Developmental Centers assisting residents to be closer to their community while decreasing costs.

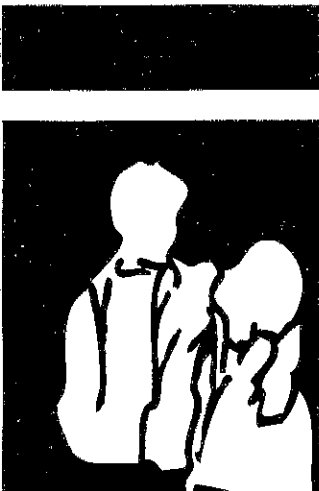
Your support of this budget allows us to hire and train quality staff vital to the life and safety of those we serve.

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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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