



**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 Scott A. DeLong and I am the President/CEO of Champaign Residential Services, Inc., and we are located in Urbana, Ohio providing services in 22 counties. We are a not for profit that provides supports for 473 Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities and we employ 817.

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.

CRSI is a provider of services in western Ohio providing care and assistance to some of Ohio's most vulnerable populations. We pride ourselves on high quality and serving some of the most challenging individuals. Over the past two years it has become next to impossible to attract and maintain the quality of staff necessary to meet the high quality and ability to serve the most challenging goal. The additional investments and collaboration will assist in maintaining our goal of serving individuals with high quality staff and create opportunities within our communities for those we strive to serve and create independence.

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*

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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.*
- Support the as introduced budget for Opportunities for Ohioans with 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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