

BELCO WORKS, INC.

Accredited by the Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities

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 Anne Haning and I am the CEO of Belco Works, Inc. We are located in St. Clairsville, Ohio, and serve primarily Belmont county but also extend into 5 other neighboring counties. We are a not for profit business that typically provides supports for over 200 Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities, although currently are serving far fewer due to the COVID-19 crisis. We typically employ approximately 95 local people, but, again due to the pandemic, our number of employees is currently at 50. As more individuals begin to feel safe to resume services, we intend to grow back to our pre-pandemic numbers.

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 Director Miller, Ohioans with developmental and intellectual disabilities will continue to receive the vital services that organizations like mine provide.

Belco Works provides a full array of adult services, including vocational habilitation, adult day supports, non-medical transportation, community employment, group employment, and homemaker personal care. We provide services funded through DODD and OOD.

Our location in the southeast region of the state is a predominately rural area experiencing many economic and social challenges. These factors add another layer of challenge in serving our citizens with developmental disabilities, who are often disproportionately affected by such economic and social/cultural impacts. With the proposed budget initiatives and the leadership of Director Davis and Director Miller, Ohio can continue to ensure that our citizens with disabilities have maximum options for services that support achievement of their individual goals. Our service system must adapt to changing expectations by individuals served as well as the general public. This demands flexibility within the system and adequate funding.

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.*
- 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,



Anne Haning
ahaning@belcoworks.com
68425 Hammond Road
St. Clairsville, OH 43950
740-695-0500, Ext. 158