



INDEPENDENCE

OF PORTAGE COUNTY

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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 testify before you today. My name is Autumn Calhoun and I am the Coordinator of the Day Program of Independence Inc, and we are located in Ravenna, OH. We are a not for profit business that provides supports for 110 Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities and we employ 200.

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

Our Services are so important to the daily lives of our individuals. We are able to work on daily living skills. We help get the individuals out so they can participate in their communities. Extra investments in our field could help get the individuals better care by getting more dedicated staff.

To best support these services and the Ohioans who receive and provide them, I encourage you to add 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.**

Autumn Calhoun
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WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 03/09/2021

Name: Autumn Calhoun

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): Indepedence Inc.

Position/Title: Coordinator of Day Program

Address: 575 E. Lake St

City: Ravenna State: Ohio Zip: 44266

Best Contact Telephone: 330-296-2409 Email: acalhoun@iopci.org

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB110

Specific Issue: Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities Budget

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? Written Testimony Only

Please provide a brief statement on your position: The individuals we serve and the staff that take care of them deserve the budget increase. With a yearly increase this could help with staff reimbursement and making sure the individuals get to live their best life possible. The work that staff are asked to do for the pay they get, is a lot. I think we could get more dedicated better trained staff with a staff pay increase. By increasing the reimbursement amount from the state this would help greatly in this area.

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.