



United
Rehabilitation
Services

Of Greater Dayton at the Charles D. Berry Center

Serving children and adults with disabilities since 1956

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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 Dennis Grant and I am the Executive Director of United Rehabilitation Services of Greater Dayton (URS), and we are located in Montgomery County but also serve individuals and their families from four surrounding Counties. We are a 501c3 nonprofit agency that for almost 65 years provided support for tens of thousands of Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities and presently serve about 1,200 per annually. Although our staff has been reduced by almost 15% since the pandemic, we employ 87 people at this time.

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.

URS is truly unique in providing a full continuum of services for children and adults with disabilities from infancy through the senior years. Our 5 Star rated Childcare serves children with disabilities age six weeks to 17 years. We also offer Adult Day Services for those age 18 and offer onsite Nursing and Therapy services for all our day program participants including Seniors. We also provide extensive prevocational and vocational services high school students and adults with disabilities. This includes programs such as Project SEARCH, Pre ETS, The URS Academy on the job supports and job placement. With additional support through this proposed Budget, URS could expand our reach to even more individuals and their families.

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
- Support the increase in JFS childcare subsidy eligibility for families with special needs children from 130% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 150% FPL.

With your support and 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.



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