



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 Melissa LeVan and I am the Director of Nursing at CRSI, and we are located in Urbana, Ohio and serve individuals in 22 counties. We are a not for profit business that provides supports for 473 individual Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities and we employ 817 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 (and Director Miller), Ohioans with developmental and intellectual disabilities will continue to receive the vital services that organizations like mine provide.

Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are plagued with disparities in many different realms. Providing support and medical assistance while promoting independence allows these individuals to serve in their communities and live life in accordance with their wishes and personal goals. Additional investments would allow the nursing department to update medical equipment and supplies to improve care as well as the ability to keep this population healthy. These investments would also present opportunities for attracting and maintaining staff who are dedicated to this population and will allow these individuals to thrive in their settings.

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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WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 3/8/21

Name: Melissa LeVan

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): Champaign Residential Services Inc

Position/Title: Director of Nursing

Address: 1150 Scioto Street

City: Urbana State: Ohio Zip: 43078

Best Contact Telephone: 937-653-1340 Email: mlevan@crsi-oh.com

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

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 110

Specific Issue: 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: While I support the budget initiatives outlined by Governor DeWine, Director Davis and Director Miller, I would like to see increased general fund appropriations in the DODD budget to support Homemaker and Personal Care, Day and Vocational Services and Nonmedical Transportation, as well as home and community based waiver services rate increases. As well, the ICF's should have options when it comes to funding. I would also like to see the creation of a Task Force to address our staffing and workforce challenges to recruit and retain qualified staff, and provide security for those we serve. Recruiting and retaining nursing staff is extremely difficult and if not addressed, will place the individuals and those nurses serving them in a very challenging and possibly unsafe and dangerous position.

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