

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: March 9, 2021

Name: W. Thomas Weaver

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): Choices In Community Living, Inc.

Position/Title: Executive Director

Address: 1651 Needmore Road

City: Dayton State: Ohio Zip: 45414

Best Contact Telephone: 937-469-3035 Email: Tweaver@ci cloh.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:

Very supportive of the budget initiatives outlined by Governor DeWine and Director Davis for the Department of Developmental Disabilities.

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.



Deborah Dulaney, *President*
Myron Rheaume, *Vice President*
Bill Kramer, *Treasurer*
Sue Seitz, *Secretary*

Choices In Community Living, Inc.

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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 offer this testimony on Ohio's operating budget!

My name is Tom Weaver and I am the Executive Director of Choices In Community Living. We are located in Dayton, serving people with developmental disabilities in Montgomery, Preble, Butler, Hamilton, Greene, Clark and Madison County. Our agency is a non-profit that provides supports for over 400 Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities and we employ over 390 people.

I am very supportive of the budget initiatives outlined by Governor DeWine and 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.

Services for people with developmental disabilities may seem far removed and insignificant if you are not intimately involved with someone with a developmental disability. The wonderful people we serve need daily care and support in all areas of life, from personal care/daily living supports (including health and medical care) to assistance in finding employment, a path to a meaningful life. Our staff are well trained and skilled in the completion of this work.

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.*

assisting people with developmental disabilities to access safe, healthy and meaningful lives in the community since 1985

founding partner of Partners For Community Living

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,



W. Thomas Weaver
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