

**I Am Boundless, Inc.**

Patrick Maynard, President & CEO

Ohio House of Representatives Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services

Written Testimony, February 23, 2021

Chairman Roemer, Ranking Member West, and members of the House Finance Subcommittee for Health and Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the as introduced version of House Bill 110, the state operating budget.

I am Boundless and its affiliated companies is a statewide provider of services, care, and supports for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and behavioral health needs. We serve children as young as two through older adulthood and provide a very wide range of types of care and services. A significant number of the people that Boundless serves utilize services funded through the Department of Developmental Disabilities. We are very supportive of and appreciative of the inclusion of many of the elements in the as introduced version of the state operating budget. We would like to express the importance of some specific areas we consider critical funding priorities for individuals with developmental disabilities. Areas that we consider critical and strongly encourage the continued inclusion in the budget include:

- Direct funding for services and care for Multi-System Youth, which are children whose needs necessitate receiving services from multiple state systems often including the Department of Developmental Disabilities, Ohio Mental Health & Addiction Services, Department of Job & Family Services, and Department of Corrections. Boundless encourages funding that includes the delivery of services and supports across a variety of levels of care including in-home, crisis, temporary emergency and planned respite, and short and longer term facility based care based on the needs of each child and family. We also encourage funding to support the coordination of care between systems and providers for the delivery of care to Multi-System Youth and their families. We believe that Ohio's investment in this area will result in improved quality of life and care for the children and families impact and will also ultimately save the state money based on reduced number of children who are sent out of the state for this type of care.
- Funding focused on advancing the use of technology in the delivery of care for individuals with developmental disabilities. We support funding that is aimed at innovation and collaboration to advance this area, as well as funding that is directly provided to providers to be able to invest in these areas and deliver these services in ways that support individuals' opportunities to live independently and in the ways they desire. Technology has become a core component of many Ohioans lives and we believe that people with disabilities should be able to access and benefit from the many opportunities that increased access to technology can provide.
- Funding that provides opportunities for individuals with disabilities to integrate into the workforce in meaningful ways. This is an area that we would like to encourage not only continued funding in, but increased investment in. We believe that employment supports that are able to be provided in ways that truly encourage community employment integration are critical, not only to the quality of life of the individuals that Boundless serves—but also to the economy of Ohio as an investment in a strong and diverse workforce.

We urge your support of these critical funding areas for Ohioans with disabilities and thank you for your consideration.