

.....

Testimony on HB 110

House Finance Health and Human Services Sub-Committee

Chairman Roemer, Ranking Member West, and esteemed committee members,

I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify before you today.

My name is Justin Blumhorst, and I am the Operations Leader of Capabilities. Capabilities is headquartered in St. Marys, OH and provides services to people with disabilities in 77 Ohio counties. We are a for profit company that provides supports for 3,000 Ohioans with disabilities each year. We employ 170 people. 86.7% of our revenue comes from services paid for by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD).

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 disabilities will continue to receive the vital services that organizations like mine provide.

Our services are imperative to people with disabilities. We are one of Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities largest provider. We provide support for people who are looking to enter the workforce and become taxpayers. With additional investments we look to invest more money in our staff, building on the starting rate of \$15.00 per hour with full benefits that we start employees at this current time.

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 quality essential services are available to the Ohioans that so greatly need them! Thank you again, for the opportunity and privilege to bring my input before you and if I can ever be of any help in this process, please let me know. Capabilities is here to serve.

Justin Blumhorst

Justin Blumhorst

justin.blumhorst@capabilitiesinc.biz

124 S. Front Street
St. Marys, OH 45885

419-394-0003 ext. 1111