



INDEPENDENCE

OF PORTAGE COUNTY

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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 Michelle L. Madden and I am the CEO of Independence of Portage Inc. and we are located in Ravenna Ohio and serve Portage and Summit county. We are a not for profit business that provides supports for 100 + Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities and we employ approximately 200 people.

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.

Our agency is committed to providing valued quality services to over 100 individuals with adults and children with Developmental Disabilities in Residential Wavier settings, Integrated Care Facilities, Day Services, and Employment service. IOPCI has established an environment that promotes individual growth, community inclusion, person center quality of life. Throughout the pandemic, IOPCI have seen countless hours of hard work put forth by our amazing employees. They stepped up to safeguard the health and safety of our individuals we serve with Developmental Disabilities. Now it is your time to step up...these Direct Support Professional should be compensated properly for the job they perform and that is why we ask that you please consider the budget asks proposed by OHCA, OPRA, OACB, and The Arc of Ohio.

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.*

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- 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.**



Michelle L. Madden
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WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 3/1/2021

Name: Michelle L. Madden

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): Independence of Portage County Inc.

Position/Title: CEO

Address: 575 East Main Street

City: Ravenna State: OH Zip: 44266

Best Contact Telephone: 3302962851 Email: MMadden@iopci.org

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

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB110

Specific Issue: Ohio 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: Our staff strive each day to do what is best for our individuals, to ensure their health and safety, to ensure their needs are being meet... They are invaluable to the services we provided.

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.