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Renaissance house, inc.

Executive Director
Robert G. Weinhardt

Trustees

**Testimony on HB 110
Ohio Senate Finance Committee
May 13th, 2021**

Eilene E. Guy
Mary Jane Hahler
Cable A. Steinemann
Susan L. Smith

Chairman Dolan, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Minority Member Sykes and esteemed Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit written testimony to the Committee today on HB 110.

My name is Robert Weinhardt, I am the Executive Director of Renaissance House, Inc. We are located in Erie, Huron, Seneca, Sandusky and Hancock Counties. We are a not-for-profit organization that provides supports for 90 Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities and we employ 110 people.

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

Renaissance House, Inc. has a 41-year history of providing services to assist individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities to live in their own homes. This is accomplished by dedicated Direct Support Professionals. They help the individual with many aspects of daily life such as personal care, medication administration, managing their personal finances, maintaining their home, planning and preparation of nutritional meals and overall, ensure their health, safety and wellbeing.

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.*

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.



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