



Testimony on HB 110  
Ohio Senate Finance Committee  
May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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 Sarah Millimen and I am the C.E.O. of Riverview Industries, Inc. (RVI, Inc), and we are located in Ottawa County and provide services in Lucas, Wood, Erie and Sandusky Counties. We are a non-profit that provides supports for 80 Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities and we employ 70 people. We support people in their homes, in the community, and at their jobs. We believe that having meaningful community belonging is the key to a successful life and actually helps people's long term mental and physical health. I write today to encourage the Committee to increasing funding for services administered by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.

Prior to the pandemic, we were struggling to hire and retain staff. Now, we are still short staff and this directly impacts the quality of services and supports we are able to provide. I have restructured our organization, I have increased wages, I have tried to find different revenue sources in order to attract more people.

Without proper staffing, the quality of services goes down. Our vision is one that takes work. We work with our communities and the people we support to recognize the value and worth of Ohioans with D.D. We need to be able to continue to do this. If we cannot make positive change then we are no better

**8380 STATE ROUTE 163, OAK HAROBOR, OHIO 43449**  
**TELEPHONE: 419-898-5250 WEBSITE: [WWW.RVIINC.ORG](http://WWW.RVIINC.ORG)**  
**E-MAIL: [SMILLIMEN@RVIINC.ORG](mailto:SMILLIMEN@RVIINC.ORG)**

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than the institutions that advocates worked so hard to close. We have to provide meaningful and dignity filled programming.

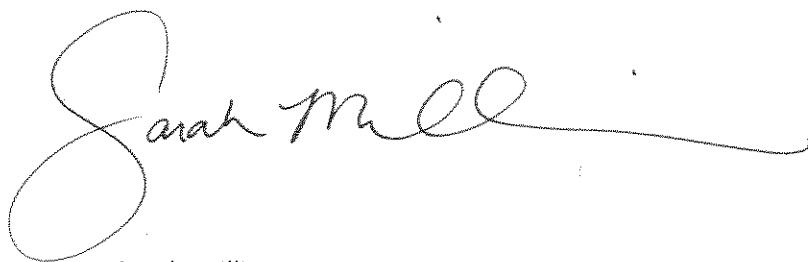
The House's version of HB 110 makes a small investment in day services for Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities. While any investment in these services is welcomed, I believe there is still more the General Assembly can do to ensure the sustainability and accessibility of services for Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We need your investment into the system to allow us to provide community building services.

**My staff have done amazing and heroic things since the pandemic began, but they are tired, emotionally exhausted and need help. I encourage you to add amendment SC 2290 into the HB 110 to support the following initiatives to best support my staff, my services, and the Ohioans we support:**

- Increase general revenue fund appropriations in the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities budget to fund much needed rate increases for homemaker and personal care, day, vocational and employment services, nonmedical transportation, respite services, and shared living under the three Home and Community Based Services waivers administered by DODD.
- Increase general revenue fund appropriations in DODD's budget to support the reimbursement formula for intermediate care facilities (ICF).
  - Allow a temporary change in statute to alter the ICF reimbursement rate calculations for the first year of the biennium.
- Support the creation of a task force to address our system's workforce challenges.

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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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Millimen". The signature is fluid and extends to the right with a long horizontal stroke.

Sarah Millimen  
RVI, Inc.  
8380 St. Rt. 163  
Oak Harbor, OH 43449