

Written Testimony of *Signer*
On behalf of I Am Boundless, Inc. & its Affiliated Companies
Ohio House of Representatives Finance Subcommittee for Health and Human Services
05/11/2021

Chairman Dolan, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for allowing the opportunity to provide interested party regarding Substitute House Bill 110, Ohio's 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. Our workforce challenges continue to hamper our ability to provide new services to individuals and/or families, and the ability to maintain current service levels. Applications are down 40% from 2020, and turnover continues to hamper a field that does not have the reimbursement structure in place to pay for career minded direct support professionals (DSP). 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:

- 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.

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

Signer



Executive Vice President
I Am Boundless, Inc.