



Testimony on HB 110
Erich Bittner, Director of Government Relations
Ohio Association of County Boards of DD
6/3/21

Chair Dolan, Vice-Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Finance Committee;

On behalf of Ohio's 88 county boards of developmental disabilities and the people and communities they support, thank you for your investment in DD service providers in the biennial state budget. Appropriations amended into House Bill 110 will raise the reimbursement rate for DD services across the board by 2% in each year of the biennium, beginning the process of addressing critical workforce shortages that have stretched and endangered supports for Ohioans with developmental disabilities.

More investment will certainly be needed in future budgets to continue to safeguard those critical supports, but this committee has demonstrated an understanding of our system's ongoing needs despite trying circumstances and many competing priorities. County boards of developmental disabilities recognize the state's financial limitations, and we deeply appreciate your ongoing support. Alongside our provider partners, we will continue our enthusiastic advocacy for the increase included in the substitute bill as the process unfolds over the next few weeks.

Additionally, OACB is grateful for this committee's continued support for other county board priorities in HB 110. The bill includes numerous provisions that will address key priorities for the DD system in the coming biennium, including funding for assistive technology and remote supports, continued support for early intervention services, funding for multi-system youth, and steps to cut administrative red tape by making certain departmental audits discretionary and inserting cleanup language related to county board business managers.

Again, thank you for your thoughtful consideration throughout this budget process. Should you have any questions, I will be happy to address them at your convenience.