

**Proponent Testimony for H. B. 676
Families and Aging Committee
November 26, 2024**

**Dennis G. Grant, CEO
United Rehabilitation Services**

Chair, Representative Schmidt, Vice Chair Representative Miller, Ranking Member Representative Densen, and members of the Families and Aging Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Dennis Grant.

I live in Miamisburg Ohio but work as the CEO of United Rehabilitation Services (URS) in Dayton Ohio. I am a Special Educator and Licensed Rehabilitation Counselor and have worked with children and adults with disabilities since 1976.
I am a proponent of the proposed House Bill 676 and strongly encourage its passage.

Since joining URS in 2001, I have seen the incredible difference we can make in the lives of children with complex medical conditions by providing them with high quality center based childcare where we provide both Nursing and Therapy services onsite throughout the day. For many of these children, no other childcare provider will accept them. The impact we can have on the child's family is just as great. The fact that the child can receive OT, PT and Speech therapy while in our care relieves tremendous stress from the family eliminating taking off work repeatedly for appointments. We also accept typically developing siblings of these children allowing parents to have one point for drop off and pick up and creating a truly inclusive environment. A good example of this is Kylie Bostick and her family. Kylie has Cerebral Palsy and has attended URS since 2016 at age two. She has Cerebral Palsy, uses a wheelchair and is nonverbal. Her typically developing younger sister, Kensley has attended URS as well since then. Kylie continues to receive OT, PT and Speech services and at age 10, attends URS full days during school breaks and all Summer long allowing her single Mom to maintain her job.

If passed, H. B. 676 would allow URS to receive reimbursement for nursing services for the first time and at a level that would allow us to expand our nursing staff and serve many more children with disabilities from throughout our region with an even higher level of need and even greater quality. More importantly, it would create access to safe high-quality childcare for children with disabilities throughout the State of Ohio.

This will benefit thousands of children and their families. In addition, this will support employers by enabling hundreds of parents to return to the workforce. However, it is critical that Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care services be funded under a Medicaid Waiver that does not preclude a child and their family benefiting due to the Family's income. Without the provision a Medicaid waiver, it will be impractical for any organization to implement this and support children and families in need.

I will close with this. URS has operated the only childcare program in Ohio for decades with nurses and therapists on staff to support children with intensive needs for a reason. We committed as part of our mission as a nonprofit to care for these children and support their families though we would incur significant financial losses. Our 2025 draft budget reveals a deficit of nearly \$300,000 which annually requires we obtain funding through grants, fundraising and contributions to sustain.

I ask that you please consider my testimony and vote to support H. B. 676 and the thousands of children and families across our State with the greatest needs.

Thank you. I'm happy to answer any questions.