

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: March 24, 2023

Name: Philip E Miller

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): Portage Industries, Inc. and MASCO, Inc.

Position/Title: CEO

Address: 7008 State Route 88

City: Ravenna State: OH Zip: 44266

Best Contact Telephone: 330.221.6143 Email: pmiller@portageind.org

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 33

Specific Issue: Department of Developmental Disabilities and Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Budget

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? Written testimony only

Please provide a brief statement on your position: I support the budget initiatives outlined by DODD and OOD and encourage the sub-committee to include additional investments for these important services.

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.



7008 State Route 88 • Ravenna, Ohio • 44266-9134
330.296.3996 • fax 220.296.8875

**Testimony on SFY 24/25 Operating Budget
House Finance Committee**

Chairman Edwards, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Sweeny, and esteemed committee members,

I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding the State Budget provisions to serve people with developmental disabilities. My name is Philip Miller, and I am CEO of Portage Industries, Inc., located in Portage County and MASCO, Inc., located in Mahoning County; two non-profit organizations that serve eligible adults. We are an organization that provides employment and employment supports for individuals in our work programs. We also provide adult day supports for individuals with more extensive support needs for personal care, food intake and mobility assistance. Our services are defined within the scope of the home and community-based waiver program that is administered by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, (DODD). Our team of approximately 110 employees (both companies) are proud to provide essential services for over 200 Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Without any hesitation, I am excited to support the budget initiatives outlined by Governor DeWine and Director Hauck for DODD and the budget initiatives outlined by Governor DeWine and Director Miller for Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD). The labor landscape currently generating a severe shortage of workers, including direct support professionals (DSP) in our field, threatens our ability to provide the critical supports on which the people we serve and their families rely and need. The budget proposed in HB 33 is a good foundation to help our system combat these many changes.

Our companies are in a constant struggle to find employees. The primary reason we are unable to attract competent workers is the reimbursement rate structure currently in place. The rates were established in 2008 and have had one increase of 4% in the immediate past budget cycle. While we appreciate that increase, we are in a perpetual shortage of funds as workforce issues and competition for workers increases. Our workers must have many skills and take on many responsibilities that most employees in other fields at similar pay rates do not have to contend with.

The Governor's proposed budget initiatives, guided by the leadership of Director Hauck and Miller, is a great foundation to reinforce and rebuild the services provided by Portage Industries, Inc. and MASCO, Inc. With these budget initiatives, Ohioans with disabilities will continue to receive the vital employment services organizations like ours provide. We encourage this committee to approve the Governor's budget proposal for DODD and ODD and thereby invest additional dollars through budget amendment HC0656 into these vital services to raise direct support professional wages to at least an average of \$20.64.

With your leadership, together we can ensure these essential services continue for Ohioans that so greatly need them! Thank you again for the opportunity to express my concerns and for your time.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip E. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Philip E Miller
pmiller@portageind.org
330.221.6143