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**Testimony on SFY 24/25 Operating Budget  
House Finance Health and Human Services Sub-Committee**

**Chairwoman Carruthers, Ranking Member Liston, and esteemed committee members,**

**I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify before you today.**

**My name is Michelle Duley and I am the Employment Service and & facilities Director of RT Industries, inc., and we are located in Troy, Oh. We are an organization that provides Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services funded by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) for 50 school age students Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our entire organization employs 100 +. Approximately 10 of these employees provide VR services through OOD.**

**I am very supportive of the budget initiatives outlined by Governor DeWine and Director Miller for Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD). The changing labor landscape and accompanying shortage of workers, including job coaches, threatens our ability to achieve our mission of helping people with disabilities find great jobs in their communities. These budget initiatives, and the leadership of Director Miller, will support us to recruit and retain the staff needed to continue to provide vital employment services to Ohioans with Developmental Disabilities. Attached is an example of the great work (Agency)'s employment staff accomplished this year through services and funding from OOD.**

RT Industries primary focus is helping people with disabilities gain and maintain employment in competitive integrated employment. Our organization supports school-aged students with Pre-ETS and Summer Youth services. With adults, our supports range from Community-Based Assessments (CBAs) to on-the-job support such as Job Coaching.

Increased funding is an absolute necessity to maintain employees within our organization. With the current reimbursement rates, our Employment Specialists are helping people gain employment in positions paying higher wages than what our organization can afford to pay our own employees.

**We encourage the General Assembly to approve the Governor's budget proposal for OOD.**

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.**

Michelle Duley  
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to confidently work, interact and thrive in the community.*

*~ Safety ~ Collaboration ~ Camaraderie ~ Growth ~ Integrity ~ Excellence ~ Innovation ~*



# WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 2/21/2023

Name: Michelle Duley

Are you representing: Yourself  Organization

Organization (If Applicable): RTI

Position/Title: Employment Service & Facilities Director

Address: 110 Foss Way

City: Troy State: Ohio Zip: 45356

Best Contact Telephone: 937-552-5455 Email: michelle.duley@rtindustries.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: 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

Please provide a brief statement on your position: I write in support of OOD's budget proposal.

*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.*