



# Center for Disability Services

*Enhancing Lives Every Day*



667 Hopewell Drive, Heath Ohio 43056 • P: (740)344-2995 • F: (740) 344-8335 • centerds.org

## 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 the opportunity to testify before you today.

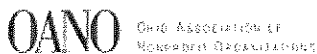
My name is Regan Eveland and I am the CEO of Center for Disability Services, and we are located in Licking County. We are an organization that provides Residential, Non-Medical Transportation and Adult Day Services through the home and community-based waiver program administered by the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD). Our team of 35 employees are proud to provide essential services to approximately 32 Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities

I am very supportive of the budget initiatives outlined by Governor DeWine and Director Hauck for DODD. The changing labor landscape and accompanying shortage of workers, including direct support professionals (DSP), threatens our ability to provide the critical supports on which our the people we serve and their families rely.

We have struggled over the past several years to hire enough staff to cover the hours needed for the people we support. We are competing against other companies such as fast food businesses that can pay their employees much higher rates. We are not able to pay higher wages because of the low reimbursement rates that we receive.

These services are vital to the people we support and their families. The people we support require help with basic needs such as cooking, cleaning, laundry, going to the doctor and grocery shopping. Without staff, these needs would not be met. In addition, just improving their quality of life with activities and community involvement is a big part of their mental health needs. This can't happen if we do not have the staff to do the services.

The Governor's proposed budget initiatives, guided by the leadership of Director Hauck, is a great foundation to reinforce and rebuild the services provided by Center for Disability Services. **We encourage this subcommittee to approve the Governor's budget proposal for DODD and to invest additional dollars into these vital services to raise direct support professional wages to at least an average of \$20.64. This investment will help us recruit and retain the workforce needed to continue to provide our quality services.**



United Way  
of Licking County  
2024-2025



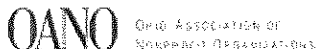
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With your leadership, together we can ensure these services are available to the Ohioans that so greatly need them!  
Thank you again, for the opportunity and privilege to bring my concerns before you and if I can ever be of any help in this process, please let me know.

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