



**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 Lamonda Dye and I am the CEO of LCD Agency Services, and we are located in Hamilton, Ohio and we serve three counties. We are an organization that provides residential support, adult day services and non medical transportation, administered by the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD). Our team of 26 employees are proud to provide essential services to (number of people served) 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 the people we serve and their families rely.

As we know competitive wages in this field has always been an issue. Covid enhanced the issue. **Our reimbursement rate makes it almost impossible to compete with other less skilled jobs. Why is a restaurant worker making the same amount of money as a person who takes care of PEOPLE? We need people to take care of people! When we do not invest in those people EVERYONE loses eventually!**

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 LCD Agency 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.**

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.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "LDye".

Lamonda Dye
Lamonda@lcdhha.com
513-887-6100