

**Willie Robbins, ACF (Adult Care Facility) Home Operator**

**Ohio Adult Care Facilities Association Board Member**

**HB 33 336 510 Residential State Supplement**

I am a recently retired Cincinnati Police Officer and now I am the owner of two Class 2 Residential Care Facility homes (also known as ACF). I have experience on both sides of the Mental Health CRISIS in the State of Ohio. On the police side and the public service side. I have seen and witnessed the lack of services, beds, and funds to adequately serve the "MENTAL HEALTH" POPULATION IN THE CITIES AND THE STATE OF OHIO. I have seen the mental health client be forced to enter the community before they were ready and equipped to do so. That is when it became apparent to me that the need for more ACF (Class 2 Residential Care Facilities) was needed.

I have witnessed individuals with severe and persistent mental illnesses being placed back in the community before they were ready and equipped with the proper tools to operate in society, they often wandered without services and committed petty crimes. Crimes like petty thefts, misdemeanor assaults, nuisance crimes like sleeping in public places like schools, malls, and restaurants. But on a much larger scale they committed crimes like what we have been experiencing around the nation with the mass shooting in the schools, malls, restaurants which are all believed to be contributed by someone with mental illness. Home Operators of ACFs house, care for and provide oversight for individuals that have complex mental and sometimes physical illnesses that would not be able to maintain housing and stability in their communities.

Governor DeWine's Budget made great strides in the funding of much needed mental health services. The amended House version of the Budget Bill for FY24-23 (HB 33) is disappointing with the cuts to the Governor's proposed budget. One of the most disappointing cuts in HB 33 was the removal of the increase for the Residential State Supplement that supplements and provides housing for hundreds of Ohioans living with mental illnesses. We are pleading for the Senate to return to the Executive Budget's as-introduced allocation amounts for the **336 510 Residential State Supplement** line at \$24,000,000 per year which equates to a proposed \$1,600 per month versus the current \$1,100 per month. The lack of housing is at crisis level and mental health group homes have not seen an increase in funding for **over 7 years**. We see an increase in demand for group homes as more and more homes close due to inadequate funding and the group home operators are faced with a heavier financial burden in today's economy.