

Sonya Durosinmi-Etti, ACF (Adult Care Facility) Home Operator

Ohio Adult Care Facilities Association Board Member

HB 33 336 510 Residential State Supplement

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 FY 24-23 (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, which supplements and provides housing for hundreds of Ohioans living with mental illnesses. We are pleading for the Senate to return to the Executive Budget as introduced" for 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. The current economic condition has hit families very hard, and operators' wallets are not exempt! We are not in this for the money but rather for the residents.

In addition to providing required services to our residents, we go above and beyond those requirements to assist our residents. One example is by transporting them to and from any necessary mental health and/or medical appointment. We do not do this for the extra money. We do it because we care about our residents. We provide this extra service and many others because it's in the best interest of our residents. It's the humane thing to do, and quite frankly, it helps to keep our residents stabilized. A resident who is not stabilized is a resident who is likely to disrupt their placement in our homes. A displaced/disrupted resident could mean even higher cost to the State of Ohio via admittance to a medical facility and /or a psychiatric facility to address their needs. Our residents deserve the absolute best care, and we show up and deliver this care 24/7, 365 days a year.

When asked, why is it important for you and your residents that RSS be increased? It represents one word for us: HOME!

- 1.A place to call home, a warm and clean, safe environment to lay their heads at night.
- 2.A home where they receive 3 meals to nourish their bodies daily.
- 3.A home where everyone is considered family, when many have no loved ones of their own.
- 4.A home to spend the holidays with their housemates that are now their family.
- 5.A home where they are fully supported to receive medication on time, taken to doctors' appointments or just spending time in the communities on outings.
- 6 A home where they are cared for, there is no judgment, they are supported, they have someone to listen to them in their time of need, they are inspired each day to live life to their fullest potential, and most importantly they are LOVED!! RSS IS:HOME, RSS IS: FAMILY, RSS IS: US