



Mount Aloysius

Mount Aloysius Corp. • PO Box 598, New Lexington, Ohio 43764
Phone: (740) 342-3343 • Fax: (740) 342-4805

Justin Gall
CEO

Shannon Jones
Administrator

Kim Flood
Administrative Director

Testimony on HB 33 Senate Finance Committee

Chairman Dolan, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Sykes, and esteemed committee members,

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

My name is Justin Gall, and I am the CEO of Mount Aloysius Corporation. Mount Aloysius is an intermediate care facility for Individuals with intellectual disabilities administered by the Department of Developmental Disabilities. Located in Southern Perry County, we have been proudly serving individuals with Intellectual and developmental disabilities for over 50 years. Mount Aloysius is a not-for-profit facility that provides support for 75 Ohioans with disabilities and employs 130 dedicated and compassionate staff. Mount Aloysius is also certified to provide Home and Community Based Services, however has not fully implemented as a result of the workforce shortages.

I am very supportive of the budget initiatives outlined by Governor DeWine and Director Hauck for DODD and 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 direct support professionals (DSP), threatens our ability to provide critical support on which the people we serve, and their families rely on. The House-passed version of HB 33 is an excellent foundation to help our system combat these many changes.

Within the last two years, Mount Aloysius Corp. has struggled to fill open positions as a result of the current reimbursement rates. With the increasing demand for workers statewide, and not being able to remain competitive, these struggles have become more prevalent. Vacancies remain vacant longer and retention of staff has become more and more difficult. Our staff work long hours filling open shifts to ensure the health and safety of the individuals we serve are met. As we entered this past weekend, we were faced with 80 open shifts, forcing our already tired staff to work a third overtime. Even though a third overtime occurred, we only met our staffing ratio due to members of our maintenance crew agreeing to work a direct care shift. The long hours due to decreased staffing levels, in addition to inadequate compensation, has resulted in staff burnout, making recruitment and retention nearly impossible. Our employees are making career changes due to the inability to stabilize the system and offer a competitive wage for the level of responsibility placed upon them.

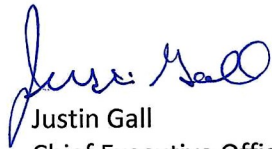
Our staff vacancy rate has almost doubled in the last two years to a record high of 40%. This rate has resulted in our enrollment being reduced by 10% to ensure we can provide the minimum level of staff to ensure health and safety. We take pride in the number of activities and community opportunities offered to the individuals we serve; however basic health and safety have taken precedence and regular

community integration and individualized programming had to be reduced. Mount Aloysius was also set to expand our service array by offering Home and Community Based Services to further meet the need of our community, however our service expansion has been on pause due to the risk of inadequate staffing. Individuals within our community are going without services because we cannot secure the necessary funding to pay support staff for them. An increased hourly wage of \$20 will begin the process of stabilizing our system allowing us to effectively recruit and retain quality staff, ultimately securing the goal of protecting, supporting and enriching the overall outcomes for individuals with disabilities.

The budget initiatives for Ohioans with developmental disabilities, guided by the leadership of Director Hauck and Miller, will reinforce and rebuild the services provided by Mount Aloysius Corp. We encourage this committee to further invest additional funds on top of the House-passed budget for DODD and maintain funding for OOD at the House-passed levels.

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 today.

Thank you,



Justin Gall
Chief Executive Officer
5375 Tile Plant Road
New Lexington, OH 43764
740-342-3343
justin.gall@mountalloysius.org