



RESIDENT HOME ASSOCIATION
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**Testimony on SFY 24/25 Operating Budget
Senate Medicaid Committee**

Chairman Romanchuk, Vice Chair Wilson, Ranking Member Ingram, and esteemed committee members,

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

My name is Rhonda Rich, and I am the Director of Administration & CFO of Resident Home Association of Greater Dayton, Inc., and we are located in Dayton, Ohio. We are an organization that provides Supports and Services to Individuals with Developmental Disabilities administered by the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD). Our team of 89 employees are proud to provide essential services to 70 Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

I am very supportive of the budget initiatives outlined by Governor DeWine and Director Hauck for DODD and very appreciative of the additional investments adopted by the House of Representatives in House Bill 33.

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. The budget proposed in HB 33 is a good foundation to help our system combat these many changes.

RHA continues to struggle to find dedicated staff that are willing to work for the wages set out by the legislature. DSP's that work in Community Settings should be paid the same fair and equitable wages as those that are employed in Developmental Centers and at competitive businesses in the community.

I am also a parent of a child with developmental disabilities. I have felt the first hand the effects of not being able to find staff due to the low wage reimbursement rate. The critical services we provide to tax paying families enables them to provide for their family members. It is very hard to hire staff when local manufacturing and developmental centers are paying more than \$20 an hour.

House Bill 33 as passed by the House is a great foundation to reinforce and rebuild the services provided by Resident Home Association. **We encourage this committee to support the House's version of H.B. 33 as it pertains to DODD appropriations. Further, we encourage the Senate 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 that reads "Rhonda J. Rich". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R".

Rhonda J. Rich
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