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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 Michelle S. Mundy, and I am the HR Director of RT Industries. We are located in Troy Ohio, serving Miami, Shelby, Darke, Auglaize & Montgomery Counties presently. We are an organization that provides day and employment services through the home and community-based waiver program administered by the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD). Our team of thirty (30) Direct Support Professionals (DSP) are proud to provide essential services to over one hundred fifty (150) Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities each month.

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.

Due to low reimbursement rates, we are unable to attract people to our industry, or retain good employees. Many people are in our field due to having “big hearts” for persons with developmental disabilities, but having a big heart does not pay the bills. As an organization we want to be competitive in our market. We want to be able to compensate our employees for the amazing job they are doing. This is the reason that we are advocating for better reimbursement rates.

Most of our families rely on us for respite, or the ability to work outside of the home, themselves. They are families that without our services would not be able to work due to caring for our “persons served”. Our organization is vital in the lives of these families and our individuals. We are the one constant that makes life just a little bit better.

House Bill 33 as passed by the House is a great foundation to reinforce and rebuild the services provided by RT. **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.**

*Helping people achieve personal success by developing skills
to confidently work, interact and thrive in the community.*

~ Safety ~ Collaboration ~ Camaraderie ~ Growth ~ Integrity ~ Excellence ~ Innovation ~





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