

Industries

The STUDIO

Transportation

Pos+Abilities

Employment Services

"We Stand on Service"

Seniors / Adult Day Programs

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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 Tonya Reed, and I am the Executive Director of RTC Industries, Inc., and we are in Bellefontaine, OH. RTC provides day, employment, and transportation services for individuals with intellectual disabilities through the home and community-based waiver program administered by the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD). Our team of 94 employees are proud to provide essential services to 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.

RTC has found it difficult to find and retain quality staff. We have raised our starting rates to a level higher than our current reimbursement rates can support. However, this has still not been enough to attract new quality candidates. There are times that we must cancel services due to lack of staff.

The services provided by RTC are critical for the individuals we support and their families. The people receiving services can work on skill development and build relationships in our community while receiving the necessary level of care. Families can work and take care of other duties knowing that their loved ones are safe. Families love seeing and hearing about the achievements of their loved ones while in our programming.

House Bill 33 as passed by the House is a great foundation to reinforce and rebuild the services provided by RTC Industries, Inc. **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.

Tonya Reed

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334 E Columbus Ave
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Mission Statement: Providing services to promote employment, community connections, and independence in life.

RTC does not discriminate in provision of services or employment due to disability, race, color, creed, national origin, gender, or age.

RTC Industries is a tax exempt 501c3 organization

Accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities