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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 Greg Snyder, and I am the Chief Financial Officer of Hattie Larlham, and we are located in Portage, Summit, Cuyahoga, Medina, Stark, Franklin, and Delaware County. Hattie Larlham provides intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities and/or residential, day, and employment services through the home and community-based waiver program administered by the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD). Our team of 850 full and part time employees are proud to provide essential services to over 1,600 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.

As with other providers, Hattie Larlham is faced with a severe staffing crisis. The current reimbursement rates do not provide adequate funding to attract and retain top employees to provide the services that are so critical to the individuals we serve. The struggles in finding and retaining staff continues to put the organization in a situation where reductions or elimination of services is always under consideration.

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

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