



Executive Offices
9772 Diagonal Road
Mantua, Ohio 44255

(330) 274-2272 | (800) 233-8611
www.hattielarlham.org

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 Richard Bradley and I am the Controller of Hattie Larlham Center for Children with Disabilities, and we are located in Mantua, Ohio. My team and I provide financial and office support for the organization, including Billing, Payables, Payroll, and Accounting. Although our team does not work directly with the individuals with developmental disabilities that our organization serves, we do support our both our approximate 850 employees but also over 300 of our residents in the form of serving as representative payee, assisting these individuals with their daily finances.

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 an organization, we have struggled to continue providing a high level of service to the developmentally disabled community due to the difficulty of attracting and retaining employees at rates commensurate with the current low reimbursement rates.

These individuals are entitled to the highest level of care and dignity, that often cannot be provided by their families. Hattie Larlham currently serves over 1,600 developmentally disabled individuals and give them an opportunity for enrichment and a learning environment and because of our employment difficulties, we have been forced to close several programs in the past couple of years, unable to staff them to a safe level for the individuals and if these trends continue, more will have to follow.

With your support, we can continue to assist those individuals who cannot assist themselves.

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**



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privilege to bring my concerns before you and if I can ever be of any help in this process, please let me know.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Bradley", is written over a light blue circular watermark that contains the text "HATTIE LARLHAM".

Richard Wm Bradley
Email: rick.bradley@hattielarlham.org
Phone: 330-840-6868