

March 10, 2025

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**Testimony on SFY 26/27 Operating Budget
House Finance Committee**

Chairman Stewart, Vice-Chair Dovilla, Ranking Member Sweeney, and esteemed committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony concerning HB96. My name is David Lewis and I am the Executive Vice President of The Arc of Ohio, we are located in Columbus, Ohio and we are a statewide organization that is also part of a national organization to support people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. I am honored to submit written testimony on behalf of all of those Individuals with disabilities and their families who have fought so hard for so many years to create a system of supports to meet the ever changing needs of all people with disabilities.

First, I want to express our deep gratitude for the historic investment in disability services in the last state budget. This allowed our system of supports to stabilize, however much work remains to be done to truly support people with disabilities to receive the care and support they need to live full, independent lives. As a state that prides itself on family values we must also do everything we can to ensure a solid foundation for these families, never forget the many parents, grandparents, siblings, and other family members who have sacrificed so much to ensure a better life for their loved ones.

I want to express my appreciation to Governor DeWine and Director Hauck for honoring the commitment made in the last General Assembly by using General Revenue Funds (GRF) to maintain the rate increases that were funded in part with ARPA dollars. This investment provides much-needed stability.



For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

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To ensure Ohioans with disabilities and their families have access to the care they need, **we urge the General Assembly to:**

1. **Maintain the Governor's investment** in ICFs, Multi-System Youth, and Technology First initiatives.
2. **Include a rate increase for waiver providers** to keep up with inflation and workforce demands.
3. **Establish a mechanism for ongoing increases** to prevent future funding crises.

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.

David Lewis

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