

# BELCO WORKS, INC.

*Accredited by the Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities*

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

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

I want to thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

My name is Anne Haning and I am the CEO of Belco Works, Inc., headquartered in St. Clairsville, Ohio and serve Belmont, Harrison, Noble, Monroe, Guernsey, and Jefferson counties. We provide Adult Day Services, Employment Services, and Non-Medical Transportation administered by the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and Vocational Rehabilitation under Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD). Our team of 60 employees are proud to provide essential services to 214 Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

First, I want to express our deep gratitude for the historic investment in disability services in the last state budget. The funding increase helped providers like us recover from a decade-long crisis that led to devastating workforce shortages. Thanks to your support, we have been able to:

- Increase applicants, allowing us to fill critical positions and provide more reliable services.
- Reduce overtime costs, which are necessary for coverage but are not reimbursed by Medicaid.
- Implement quality measures, including expanded staff training to improve our services for individuals with the most severe challenges and improvements in use of technology for service delivery
- Increase wages, with our current average Direct Support Professional (DSP) wage at \$17.45 per hour.

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 providers and the people they serve.

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

- 1. Include a rate increase for waiver providers** to keep up with inflation and workforce demands.
- 2. Establish a mechanism for ongoing increases** to prevent future funding crises.

Investing in these services is not just about providers—it's about ensuring Ohioans with disabilities receive the care and support they need to live full, independent lives in their communities. We look forward to working with you to build on the progress you've made and keep Ohio moving forward.

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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