



Testimony on SFY 26/27 Operating Budget House Health Committee

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Good morning, Chairwoman Schmidt, Vice-Chair Deeter, Ranking Member Somani, and committee members.

Thank you for letting me speak to you today.

My name is Michelle Mundy, and I'm the HR Director for RT Industries, a provider for DODD. I work in Troy, Ohio which resides in Miami County and provide services like **hiring DSP's, retention of DSP's, and DSP compliance**. I've worked at RT for 2 and ½ years.

Before the last budget's pay increase, DSPs were struggling. I was having a difficult time getting quality applicants due to the pay rate that we were offering. I know that all our DSP's were here because their hearts were huge and they loved our individuals, but were unable to pay their bills or make ends meet due to the low pay scale. This was a stressful and exhausting time for DSP's and providers.

Since the pay increase, things have changed for the better. **I have quality applicants flooding my inbox, and increased morale for our organization because the DSP's have a position that affords them a job that they love without the worry of surviving.** This has made a real difference in my life and the lives of the people I support. Thank you for recognizing the importance of this work.

I'm concerned because the Governor's proposed budget doesn't include more money for DSPs working in waiver settings. Without action from you, we'll be right back where we started. We can't afford to lose more qualified, caring workers.

I ask you to:

- 1. Include a rate increase for DSPs in waiver settings.**
- 2. Create a system to regularly adjust pay so we don't face this crisis again.**

The people I support rely on me and our DSPs. We need to make sure this is a job people can afford to do, so we can continue providing quality care.

Thank you for your time.

*Helping people achieve personal success by developing skills
to confidently work, interact and thrive in the community.*

~ Safety ~ Collaboration ~ Camaraderie ~ Growth ~ Integrity ~ Excellence ~ Innovation ~





March 5, 2025
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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Michelle S. Mundy'.

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