



**Ohio House Health Committee
House Bill 96 Proponent Testimony
March 6, 2025**

**Robert Heinzerling
Executive Director
Heinzerling Community**

Chairwoman Schmidt, Vice Chair Deeter, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the House Health Committee. My name is Robert Heinzerling, and I am the Executive Director of Heinzerling Community, an Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) that has proudly served Central Ohio's most medically fragile and disabled citizens since 1959. Our campus, located on the west side of Columbus, is the only facility in Franklin County offering 24/7 residential care for individuals with developmental disabilities. Today, approximately 457 dedicated staff members work together to provide a loving home environment and intensive care to over 155 children and adults with severe or profound developmental disabilities.

First and foremost, I want to express my sincere gratitude to the legislature for your critical support of direct service provider (DSP) wages in the last budget. The work our staff performs is nothing short of heroic, and like many ICFs, Heinzerling faced significant challenges in filling open positions. I am pleased to report that, thanks to the DSP wage increase, Heinzerling has emerged from the most severe staffing shortage in our 60-year history. This support has been transformative for our organization and the individuals we serve.

This is why we strongly support the Governor's proposed budget for ICF funding. As 100% of our residents rely on Medicaid, without this funding increase, we simply cannot remain competitive in attracting and retaining the talented, compassionate staff needed to provide the level of care our residents deserve.

Thank you for your consideration of these incredibly important issues and I urge you to maintain the ICF funding in the Governor's as-introduced budget. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

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