

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: May 23, 2025

Name: Dennis G. Grant

Are you representing: Yourself ☐ Organization ☒

Organization (If Applicable): United Rehabilitation Services

Position/Title: Chief Executive Officer

Address: 4710 Old Troy Pike

City: Dayton State: Ohio Zip: 45424

Best Contact Telephone: (937) 469-5291 Email: dgrant@ursdayton.org

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes ☒ No ☐

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): House Bill 96

Specific Issue: Department of Developmental Disabilities issues in State Budget

Are you testifying as a: Proponent ☒ Opponent ☐ Interested Party ☐

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes ☐ No ☒

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? WRITTEN ONLY

Please provide a brief statement on your position: I support the Governor's Budget and would like to see additional investments in wages for Direct Support Professionals as well as a mechanism for ongoing increases.

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.

Testimony on SFY 26/27 Operating Budget

Senate Finance Committee

Chairman Cirino, Vice-Chair Chavez, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and esteemed committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.

My name is Dennis Grant, and I am the CEO of United Rehabilitation Services (URS). URS is in Dayton, Ohio and serve individuals with disabilities from Montgomery, Greene, Clark and Miami Counties. We provide a broad array of services including Adult Day Services, Employment Services administered by the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD). In addition, we have the only Childcare Center in Ohio for children with disabilities where we have a staff of nurses and OT, PT and Speech therapists onsite to meeting the needs of even medically fragile children. Our team of 90 employees are believe in our mission and the critical services to delivered to over 300 children and adults with acquired and developmental disabilities each day.

Please accept my most sincere thanks for the tremendous investment made in disability services in the last state biennium budget. The increased funding helped us recover from the pandemic and extreme workforce shortages. Thanks to your support, we have been able to:

- Reduce turnover from 36% to 25%, stabilizing our workforce and improving our continuity of care.
- Expand services to individuals we previously had to turn away due to staffing shortages.
- Implement quality measures, such as [specific program, staff training, technology improvement, etc.].
- Increase wages, with our current average Direct Support Professional (DSP) wage at \$19.18 per hour.

We also appreciate 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. However, the budget does not include any additional funding to further boost direct support professional wages, despite the continued workforce crisis and rising costs. The last rate increase took effect in July 2024, and without action from this body, providers face a nearly four-year gap in rate adjustments—putting us right back in the crisis we just emerged from.

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.

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.



Dennis G. Grant
CEO, United Rehabilitation Services
4710 Old Troy Pike
Dayton Ohio 45424
dgrant@ursdayton.org