



110 Foss Way
Troy, OH 45373
937-335-5784
www.rtindustries.org

Testimony on SFY 26/27 Operating Budget Senate Medicaid Committee

Good morning, Chair Romanchuk, Vice-Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Liston, and committee members.

Thank you for letting me speak to you today.

My name is Rebecca Garrison and I'm a Direct Support Professional (DSP). I work in Miami County and provide Employment Services. I've been a DSP for 13 years.

Before the last budget's pay increase, DSPs were struggling. I always wanted to be in this field of work, but the pay made it difficult. I had thought about other career options but none of them had such a positive impact on the community as being a DSP.

Since the pay increase, things have changed for the better. I no longer have to think about other career options in order to support my family. 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 other 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.

Rebecca Garrison

Rebecca.garrison@RTindustries.org

110 Foss Way Troy, Ohio 45373
(937)524-3083

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

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

