



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 Chandra Thompson. I am the Community Engagement & Operations Director at RT Industries. We are in Troy, Ohio- Miami County and provide Adult Day, Employment and Transportation services. I have worked in the field of Developmental Disabilities for 10 years and at RT for 3 years.

Before the last budget's increase, DSPs were struggling. As a Director, I often had employees coming to me with financial hardships. Many were struggling to provide for their families. They faced the difficult decision every day, to continue to work in a field they love, or provide financially for their families. A huge part of my role was case management for my employees. I found myself developing a resource folder and constantly researching organizations that could help with their need for rent, food, childcare, and transportation needs etc.

Since the budget increase, things have changed for the better. As an agency, we were able to increase our starting wage significantly, allowing us to be more competitive. Our retention rate has increased, turnover has decreased, and services have improved, due to consistency and additional resources. We were able to hire additional staff, increase community-based groups and fully staff our transportation department with 5 drivers. As we continue to grow, we have also added a 6th route and lead/supervisor to our team. Employees are now able to make long-term plans for retiring from this field and have begun to invest in our company match retirement plan. We were able to increase our match by 1% due to budget increases. This has made a real difference in my life and the lives of the staff and 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

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

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



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

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.



Chandra Thompson

Chandra.Thompson@RTIndustries.org

937-552-5401

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

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

