

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 Brittany Kerr, and I'm a Direct Support Professional (DSP) in Miami County, Troy, OH.** I've proudly served in this role for nearly 20 years, providing essential services like personal care, transportation, and community integration, along with helping coordinate services through our Adult Day Program.

Being a DSP is not just a job, it's my passion. I absolutely love the work I do and the people I have the privilege of supporting every day. But before the last budget included a pay increase for DSPs, it was becoming nearly impossible to make ends meet. As a single mom, I had no choice but to work a second job in the evenings after a full day's work. That schedule was exhausting and unsustainable. It led to burnout, and even worse, it took precious time away from my son.

The recent pay increase made a real, meaningful difference. I've finally been able to focus on just one job my DSP role and still manage to cover my expenses. The burnout has eased, my quality of life has improved, and most importantly, I've regained time to be with my son.

But now I'm deeply concerned. The Governor's proposed budget does not include additional funding for DSPs working in waiver settings. If no action is taken, we risk undoing the progress we've made.

We need continued investment in DSPs to retain qualified, compassionate professionals who provide critical care every single day. Please, don't let us slide backward. The future of this essential workforce—and the well-being of those we support—depends on your action.

**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.



Brittany Kerr

[Brittany.kerr@rtindustries.org](mailto:Brittany.kerr@rtindustries.org)

Troy Ohio

937-451-0418

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

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

