



FINANCE COMMITTEE

WITNESS FORM

Today's Date: 6/11/2015

Name: Bridget Gargan

Address: 73 E. Wilson Bridge Rd. Suite B1, Worthington, OH 43085

Telephone: 614-431-0616

Representing: Ohio Association of County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Testifying on bill number: HB64

Testifying as: ___ Proponent
 ___ Opponent
 ___X_ Interested Party

Are you a registered lobbyist? ___X___ YES ___ NO

Are you submitting written testimony? ___X___ YES ___ NO

Comments: _____

Testimony of Bridget Gargan
Executive Director, Ohio Association of County Boards

Serving People with Developmental Disabilities



*Senate Finance Committee—House Bill 64
June 11, 2015*

Thank you Chairman Oelslager, Ranking Member Skindell, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee. My name is Bridget Gargan, and I am the executive director of the Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities (DD), abbreviated as OACB. I am testifying before you today regarding our members' positions on several important provisions in HB64. OACB remains optimistic that the final version of HB64 will reflect the changes needed for Ohio's DD system to overcome the significant challenges it will face over the next two years. For the sake of brevity, I will address these necessary changes in a bulleted format.

- ***We ask that you support Ohio's continued transition to home and community based services by removing provisions regarding the creation of a state developmental center closure commission, sheltered workshops, and Medicaid provider rates.***
 - The Senate sub bill kept the developmental center closure commission that was created by the House;
 - As members of the DODD Strategic Planning Leadership Group that recommended the consolidation of Ohio's developmental centers, we oppose the establishment of a developmental center closing commission because it would duplicate efforts already put forth by experts in the developmental disabilities field and unnecessarily prolong our state's transition away from institutional settings.
 - The Senate sub bill kept language inserted by the House regarding Medicaid services provided by sheltered workshops.
 - While the intent of the provision aims to express support for workshops as an option for people, this language violates the new DODD free choice of provider rule and would prohibit the expansion of home and community based services. Therefore, this language should be removed.
 - The Senate sub bill adds a provision that weakens the increased Medicaid reimbursement rate for Homemaker/Personal Care services that was originally proposed by DODD in the as-introduced version of the budget.
 - Increasing provider rates is an important part of system transformation and we ask that the Senate change be removed from the budget.

- ***We ask your support for predictable and sustainable services for people with developmental disabilities by restoring funds to the DODD Medicaid Services Line Item (GRF 653407).***
 - The Senate sub bill cuts almost \$5 million in each fiscal year from the DODD Medicaid Services line item. This \$10 million cut is on top of the \$33 million cut by the House.
 - DODD's budget as-introduced included a significant investment of new monies designed to position Ohio's DD system for the future. The funding package

focused on serving individuals in crisis and strengthening Ohio's DD home and community based waivers. Included in these new funding initiatives are monies for new waivers, recruiting and retaining a higher-quality direct care workforce, and strengthening the waiver so it is better able to support individuals with complex behavioral and medical challenges. We support restoring the \$17 million (FY 16) and \$26 million (FY 17) in the DODD Medicaid Services Line Item (GRF 653407).

- The Senate added temporary law language that authorizes the DODD Director to certify that if there is a shortfall in funding and the need arises to provide additional Medicaid services through GRF 653407 (Medicaid Services), he may request additional funds from the Director of Budget and Management.
 - In addition to concerns over the practical feasibility of such an arrangement, this provision creates an environment where people with developmental disabilities may have services cut do to a lack of appropriate funding. We support the removal of this provision and a restoration of cuts to this line item.
- ***We ask for your support to ensure that people with developmental disabilities are not adversely impacted by the accelerated loss of TPPT revenue.***
 - The Senate maintained the \$8 million (FY 16) and \$12 million (FY 17) appropriated by the House in the DODD Medicaid Services Line Item (GRF 653407) that was intended for TPPT relief. However, this is only half of the revenue that will be lost. Furthermore, this revenue is not properly shielded from uses other than TPPT relief in the current version of the bill.
 - County boards of developmental disabilities fund the majority of Medicaid waiver services for people with developmental disabilities using a combination of state and local revenue sources.
 - By eliminating approximately \$40.5 million in Tangible Personal Property Tax (TPPT) revenue, the General Assembly would effectively prevent Ohio from accessing an additional \$67 million in federal matching funds from Medicaid waiver programs.
 - Cutting a combined \$107.5 million in funds from Ohio's DD system at a time of great uncertainty and upheaval would have a negative impact on our system's ability to adequately serve people with developmental disabilities and achieve our systems transformation goals.
 - We hope that you will consider addressing this funding gap with an additional appropriation as well as putting in place measures to ensure that the dollars intended for TPPT relief are used accordingly.

Thank you for considering our concerns related to the current version of Amended Substitute House Bill 64. I welcome any questions you may have at this time.