

Testimony on HB 110  
House Finance Health and Human Services Sub-Committee

Chairman Roemer, Ranking Member West, and esteemed committee members,

**I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify before you today.**

My name is Roger Fortener and I am the Executive Director of Anne Grady Services and we are located in Lucas and Fulton Counties. We are a non-profit business that provides supports for 150 individuals residentially. And pre-pandemic... we provided another 250+ individuals transportation, day programming, and respite care. All services are to Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities and we employ 350 staff.

I am very supportive of the budget initiatives outlined by Governor DeWine, Director Davis for the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), with these budget initiatives and the leadership of Director Davis, Ohioans with developmental and intellectual disabilities will continue to receive the vital services that organizations like mine provide.

The services we provide to individuals with developmental disabilities is vital. We serve children through adults who are up in age, past retirement age. We also serve a large number of individuals who have compromised health issues. We have done this since March of 1982 and hope to continue to do so for a long time.

**To best support these services and the Ohioans who receive and provide them, I encourage you to add the following initiatives into Ohio's biennium budget:**

- Increase general revenue fund appropriations in DODD's budget to fund much needed Homemaker and Personal Care, Day and Vocational Services and Nonmedical Transportation Medicaid home and community based waiver services rate increase. *These increases will provide much needed funds for Direct Support Professional (DSP) wages, support for other front-line professionals and sustain the infrastructure necessary to provide our services.*
- Increase general revenue fund appropriations in DODD's budget to support the reimbursement formula for intermediate care facilities (ICF).
- Support a budget amendment that would allow ICFs to choose between a reimbursement rate freeze or a continuation of the formula for the first year of the biennium.
- Support the creation of a Task Force to address our system's workforce challenges. *This Task Force will identify several initiatives and projects designed to help providers recruit and retain a qualified workforce.*



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With your leadership, together we can ensure these services are available to the Ohioans that so greatly need them! **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.**



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