

AUGLAIZE INDUSTRIES, INC. . . . 2021

A not-for-profit agency providing services to adults with disabilities in and around Auglaize County, Ohio

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 submit my letter of support for current budget initiatives that benefit Ohioans with disabilities and their families.

My name is Greg Ferrall, CEO for Auglaize Industries, Inc. in New Bremen, Ohio. We are a not for profit that provides day services supports for 110 Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities, about half of whom are employed in our local community and in-house vocational training division. Sixteen of our eligible clients reside in an ICF facility within our primary county of service.

I am very supportive of the budget initiatives outlined by Governor DeWine, Director Davis for the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) as well as for those privately-owned ICFs across the state, many of whom benefit from adult day services programming. With these budget initiatives and the leadership of Director Davis, Ohioans will continue to receive the vital services that organizations like Auglaize Industries and our local ICF provide.

Although our program has had a long and productive relationship with our local ICF of well over 30 years, my understanding and experience suggest that ICF funding has lagged beyond their ability to continue to secure day services with providers such as Auglaize Industries under usual and customary (UCR) Medicaid rates. Similarly, adult day programs have survived on rather stagnant day services rates for well over 5 years, aside from recent temporary adjustments due to the COVID pandemic.

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.*

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.



Greg Ferrall, CEO
gferrall@augind.org
419 305-9241