



**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 Sara Eppard and I am the State Director of Dungarvin Ohio. We have four office locations in Ohio, including Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, and Dayton, serving individuals in 11 counties. In business since 1992, Dungarvin Ohio is a for profit agency that provides supports for over 200 Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities and we employ 233 employees.

I am very supportive of the budget initiatives outlined by Governor DeWine and 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.

At Dungarvin, we are committed to our mission of "Respecting and Responding to the Choices of People in Need of Supports". Because each individual we support is unique, we strive to provide services that are tailored to each person's own hopes, dreams, goals and needs. Dungarvin does not shy away from those who struggle with behavioral problems, and works closely with our county board partners to collaborate and share resources. Dungarvin also has a network of 23 foster homes in the Columbus area, specializing in children with developmental and other disabilities. Part of this program includes working with families who receive Ohio Family and Children First services, working to keep children in the family home.

**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.*
- 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.**

*Sara Eppard*

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*respecting and responding to the choices of people in need of supports*

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