



COLUMBUS CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES, INC.

*Our Mission:
Inspiring Life
Journeys*

*Our Vision:
Cultivating Valued
Roles for All People*

*Our Values:
We are a
Progressive
Organization that
Believes in
Integrity,
Transparency,
Equality and
Kindness*

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 Sean Moore, and I am the Director of Open Door Art Studio & Gallery, a division of Columbus Center for Human Services, Inc. (CCHS, Inc.), located in Grandview Heights, Ohio, providing programming in Franklin County. CCHS, Inc. is a private, not for profit that provides supports for over six hundred Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities and employs 483 employees, with Open Door providing supports for over one hundred artists with intellectual and developmental disabilities and employing seven staff members.

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.

For the artists of Open Door, our building is not only a space where they are free to create and pursue their own, personal artistic endeavors, it is a space where they are free to be themselves. It is a space where they have formed friendships and familial bonds. The temporary loss of Open Door as a daily staple in their lives, during our temporary shutdown, impacted them greatly. "I felt so empty inside when I wasn't able to be around other artists," one of our artists, Brittlynn, said. "When I was finally able to return, I felt so much joy. I missed creating artwork, but I missed the support I feel at Open Door more."

The temporary funding as defined and provided through Appendix K not only allowed Open Door to reopen our studio space and welcome back some of the artists we represent, but it also allowed us to work one-on-one with some of our artists in their homes through the newly established STEP funding option. "It was great," Open Door artist, Wallace Peck, said. "I got to draw and paint at home and I made money from my paintings. The staff helped me. They did a good job." Whether returning to the Open Door studio space, or taking advantage of in-home art programming through STEP, Appendix K allowed for our artists to safely regain the



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sense of family that naturally comes when creatives are able to be around other creatives, something that the currently proposed funding structure would not support.

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.*
- Support the as introduced budget for Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

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.**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean Moore".

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