



Extended Hearts Home Care

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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 written testimony before you today.

My name is Tina Mills and I am the Office Manager and Compliance Officer for Extended Hearts LLC and we currently provide services in Warren and Montgomery Counties. We are a for profit business that provides care and or non-medical transportation for approximately 60+ Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities and we employ over 90 people.

I am very supportive of the budget initiatives outlined by Governor DeWine, Director Davis for the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), and Director Miller for Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) (keep OOD in if you provide OOD services, you can remove if you do not provide OOD services). **With these budget initiatives and the leadership of Director Davis** (and Director Miller, Ohioans with developmental and intellectual disabilities will continue to receive the vital services that organizations like ours provide.

At Extended Hearts, although our services vary greatly from one client to another, our staff provide our clients with assistance in school and learning, mobility, food preparation and/or eating, medicine administration, personal hygiene, cleaning of home and laundry, the ability to safely go out and interact in their communities and generally tend to their daily needs and safety. We encourage them to continue to learn and grow as individuals, in an attempt to live their best lives. We are not only caregivers, but friends and teachers to our clients.

Additional investments would serve to ensure we are able to invest in more and better opportunities for our clients and to retain our staff training and engagement initiatives.

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 this as introduced budget for Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

With your leadership, together we can ensure these services are available to 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.**

Tina Mills

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Extended Hearts LLC

"Because your life matters"

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