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**Testimony on HB 110  
Ohio Senate Finance Committee  
May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Chairman Dolan, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Minority Member Sykes and esteemed Members of the Senate Finance Committee,**

**I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit written testimony to the Committee today on HB 110.**

**My name is Michelle Herndon and I am the Executive Director/CEO of S&H Products, and we are located in Sidney, Ohio. We are a not for profit business that provides supports for approximately 100 Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities and we employ approximately 30. We are the only day service provider in Shelby county. This means people depend on us for valuable and much needed supports to work, live, and be an active participant of their own lives. I write today to encourage the Committee to increasing funding for services administered by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.**

**A major concern we have faced is hiring quality staff and continuing training staff. We have limited applicants for open positions and the quality of the applicants has decreased since the pandemic. Our staff are hands on support to people in almost every component of a person's life. Not having staff to provide these supports has a direct and significant impact on a person. In addition, not being able to train staff effectively and ongoing markedly impacts the quality of supports. Due to the pandemic regulations we have increased expenses and decreased income. Our staff are asked to do more with less. We can't compete with the pay rates for the businesses in the area due to limited funding. You can have a direct impact on someone's life by increasing the finding available to the people that are hands on supports.**

**These workforce changes have caused us to have a waiting list for services. We often can't provide the services being requested because we do not have staff available to fulfill the requests. In addition, because the staffing is low, those that are working have increased hours and stress due to the constant demands of covering more than their own position. Over worked and over stressed employees decreases the quality of services and causes them to quit, thus causing a bigger staffing/service issue. Help is needed and you can be a part of that help.**

**The House's version of HB 110 makes a small investment in day services for Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities. While any investment in these services is welcomed, I believe there is still more the General Assembly can do to ensure the sustainability and accessibility of services for Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The additional investment means rewarding employees with higher pay, and providing better quality people to provide the much needed services.**

**My staff have done amazing and heroic things since the pandemic began, but they are tired, emotionally exhausted and need help. I encourage you to add amendment SC 2290 into the HB 110 to support the following initiatives to best support my staff, my services, and the Ohioans we support:**

- Increase general revenue fund appropriations in the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities budget to fund much needed rate increases for homemaker and personal care, day, vocational and employment services, nonmedical transportation, respite services, and shared living under the three Home and Community Based Services waivers administered by DODD.
- Increase general revenue fund appropriations in DODD's budget to support the reimbursement formula for intermediate care facilities (ICF).
  - Allow a temporary change in statute to alter the ICF reimbursement rate calculations for the first year of the biennium.
- Support the creation of a task force to address our system's workforce challenges.

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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