



**Testimony on HB 110
Senate Health Committee
May 4, 2021**

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Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio and esteemed Members of the Senate Health 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 Ashley Brocius, and I am the CEO of RT Industries, and we are located in Troy, OH, serving two counties presently. We are a non-profit 501(c)3 that provides supports for one hundred fifty (150) Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities and we employ one hundred twenty (120). As a community, RT Industries is a staple for success in maintaining employment with over eighty (80) business partnerships. Our Day Services promotes positive community membership. We define our success by how we touch the lives of humans. I write today to encourage the Committee to increasing funding for services administered by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.

Since the start of the pandemic, we have seen a tremendous shift in the fewer number of applications, applicants demanding higher wages, and applicants no-showing for interviews. Our open positions are not being filled after months of posting.

These workforce challenges have impacted our organization with the inability to return to pre-pandemic services. Never before has RT had a waiting list to get back into services. Without the necessary staffing, this in turn affects parent or caregiver's ability to work, harsher workforce challenges for residential providers and overall growth of the person receiving services. Local businesses want to partner with RT due to their workforce challenges, but we are unable to accept at this time. RT will not be able to return to who we were before unless the workforce challenges are addressed.

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. Additional investments for RT Industries would allow us the opportunity to release burden on residential providers and local businesses. It would give the people, who want to return, the ability to return to 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 the following initiatives into Ohio's biennium budget 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

Helping people achieve personal success by developing skills to confidently work, interact and thrive in the community.

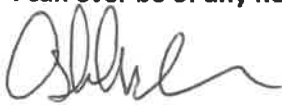
~ Safety ~ Collaboration ~ Camaraderie ~ Growth ~ Integrity ~ Excellence ~ Innovation ~



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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