

Mount Aloysius

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Testimony on HB 110
Ohio Senat Finance Committee
May 13, 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 Justin Gall and I am the CEO of Mount Aloysius Corporation. Mount Aloysius is an Intermediate Care Facility in Southern Perry County, and we have been proudly serving individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities for the past 50 years. Mount Aloysius is a not-for-profit facility that provides supports for 75 Ohioans with 130 dedicated and compassionate staff. Residential providers are lacking in Southeast Ohio and Mount Aloysius is depended upon to provide quality care to all individuals in our area. I write today to encourage the Committee to increase funding for services administered by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.

We have struggled to fill open positions prior to the pandemic with those struggles becoming increasingly more difficult since the onset of the Public Health Emergency. Vacancies remain vacant longer and retaining staff has become more and more difficult. Our staff work long hours filling open shifts to ensure the health and safety of the individuals we serve are met. Long hours, in addition to inadequate compensation, has resulted in staff burnout and yet another vacancy. Prior to the pandemic, we received new applicants almost daily and currently are lucky to experience one or two a week. The importance of retention and adequately compensating our Direct Support Professionals must be a focus.

Prior to the pandemic, Mount Aloysius was expanding our service array by offering Home and Community Based Services to further meet the need of our community. There are individuals going without services because of providers not being able to obtain the necessary staffing levels. Our service expansion was paused due to this and is still paused due to the risk of inadequate staffing levels. We are working with the minimal staffing in our ICF now and cannot add additional services to our already overwhelmed workforce.

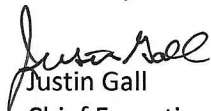
The House's version of HB 110 makes a small investment in day services for Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities. While any investment in these services is welcomed, I believe there is still more the General Assembly can do to ensure the sustainability and accessibility of services for Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

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 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.

Sincerely,



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