



110 Foss Way  
Troy, OH 45373  
937-335-5784  
www.rtindustries.org

**Testimony on SFY 24/25 Operating Budget  
House Finance Health and Human Services Sub-Committee**

**Chairwoman Carruthers, Ranking Member Liston, and esteemed committee members,**

I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify before you today.

My name is Nick Snyder and I am an Employment Specialist at RT Industries, and we are in Troy, OH. Our organization can serve any county in Ohio but are actively serving Miami County and a few local counties. We are an organization that provides Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services funded by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) for upwards to fifty (50) school aged students through aging adults monthly of Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our entire organization employs just over one hundred (100) people. Approximately ten (10) of these employees provide VR services through OOD.

I am very supportive of the budget initiatives outlined by Governor DeWine and Director Miller for Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD). The changing labor landscape and accompanying shortage of workers, including job coaches, threatens our ability to achieve our mission of helping people with disabilities find great jobs in their communities. These budget initiatives, and the leadership of Director Miller, will support us to recruit and retain the staff needed to continue to provide vital employment services to Ohioans with Developmental Disabilities. Attached is an example of the great work RT Industries' employment staff accomplished this year through services and funding from OOD.

RT Industries primary focus is helping people with disabilities gain and maintain employment in competitive integrated employment. Our organization supports school-aged students with Pre-ETS and Summer Youth services. With adults, our supports range from Community-Based Assessments (CBAs) to on-the-job support such as Job Coaching.

Increased funding is an absolute necessity to maintain employees within our organization. With the current reimbursement rates, our Employment Specialists are helping people gain employment in positions paying higher wages than what our organization can afford to pay our own employees.

Thank you,

Nick Snyder  
Nick.Snyder@RTIndustries.org  
110 Foss Way, Troy, Ohio 45373  
(937)451-8180

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

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



110 Foss Way  
Troy, OH 45373  
937-335-5784  
www.rtindustries.org

The success story I would like to share is about Tristan. Tristan is one of the first individuals I worked with as an Employment Specialist to find employment. Tristan and I started out by doing a CBA(Community Based Assessment) through OOD. Tristan and I tried a job in stocking at a local grocery store, and then we also tried a bagging job at Kroger in Piqua. Tristan decided that he liked the bagging job at Kroger, and he would like to apply there. Tristan was hired by Kroger in Piqua in April of 2016. This would be Tristan's first job and he was very excited to start working. I worked with Tristan to complete his orientation and then alongside him as he learned the bagging job. Tristan loves talking to customers and providing them with excellent service.

Tristan still works as a bagger in Piqua and continues to love his job there. This picture is of Tristan and my children,we stopped by Kroger to visit him on Halloween. When we are grocery shopping, we always check to see what checkout lane Tristan is working on so he can be our bagger. My family and I also enjoy watching Tristan play Special Olympics Basketball, and he keeps track of what sports they are playing. I feel like my job as an Employment Specialist is a very rewarding job, and I get to see the way employment can change someone's life, but this job has also changed my life and I feel like it has made me a better person.



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

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

