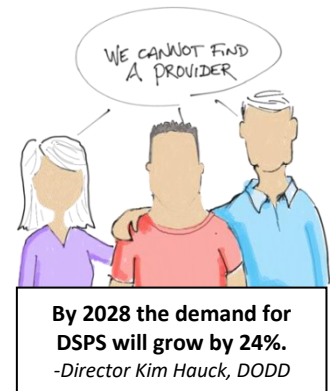


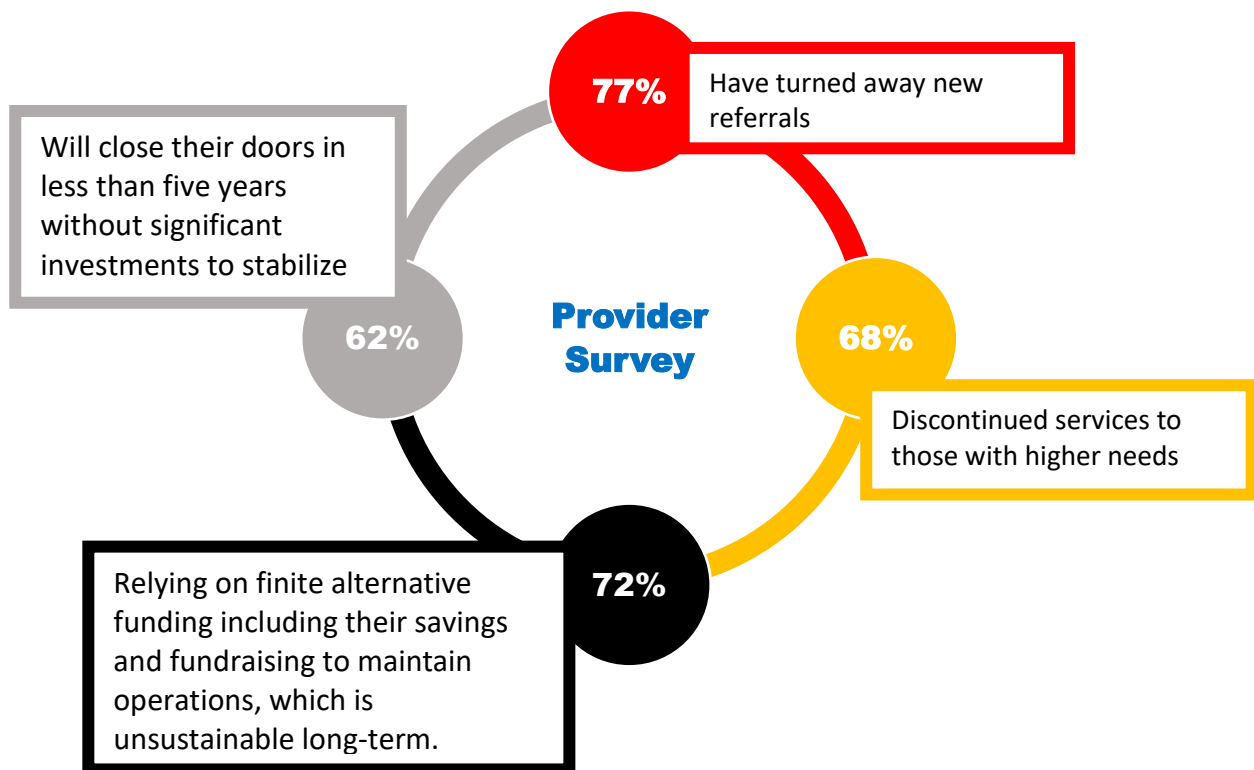
Chairwoman Carruthers, Ranking Member Liston, and esteemed members of the committee. My name is Pete Moore and I represent nearly 200 providers of Medicaid-funded long-term services to Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I am testifying in front of you today as a part a coalition of associations serving Ohio’s developmental disability system Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

Ohioan’s should be proud of the providers and what they have been able to do over the last 3 years. In the face of a declining workforce and a global pandemic, this system kept the people they support healthy and safe.

We are grateful for the proposed investment Governor DeWine and Department of Developmental Disabilities Director Kim Hauck made in his budget proposal. The Governor’s proposal provides us with a solid foundation for us and this committee to build upon. As you heard from Director Hauck, and as you will hear from us, we have a problem to solve and we need your partnership to solve it. The developmental disabilities system is in a unique position- there is no other payer outside of Medicaid that pays for the services offered by our system. Ohio’s provider community is a business community that is 100% reliant on Medicaid funding; meaning we are 100% reliant on your support and investment.

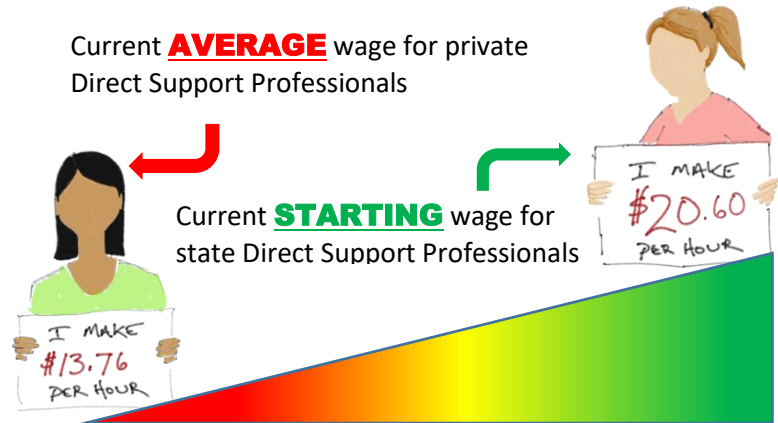


Ohio’s developmental disability provider community is struggling and in turn, as you will hear, the people they support and their families are also struggling. Last fall we surveyed our members to get a feel for the impact of the staffing shortages and the results were alarming.



In 2021, we testified in front of this and other committees where I talked about “A Day without Direct Support Professionals (DSPs)”. I talked about our fears regarding our workforce crisis and what it means to lose and not find DSPs. A day without DSPs means a person struggles with the most basic day-to-day tasks- making a meal, taking medications, and connecting with their community. Your support and partnership over the past few budgets has been important and is greatly appreciated but unfortunately, even with the support from this body two years ago, the warning from 2 years ago is a reality today.

Director Hauck has done an excellent job of making the case for investment, which includes the fact that State Operated Developmental Centers front-line staff, perform similar duties as privately operated providers and their starting pay is over \$20 per hour while our current **average** wage is \$13.76. We are asking for your support to close that gap.



Thank you for your time and dedication to Ohioans with developmental disabilities and their families. We are excited and eager to partner with you to as we work to sustain our system.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter J. Moore
President and CEO
The Ohio Provider Resource Association