



House Bill 96: State Budget ID/DD HCBS Amendment



This amendment is about **making sure Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) get regular raises** and making sure the agencies that employ them can afford the raises.

The Problem

We need steady increases, not big jumps every few years.

- The current budget says it is "continuing" the rate increases from the last budget. These are not new increases. It means **DSP pay will stay the same**, not keep increasing.
- This is a problem because **we need to pay DSPs a decent wage** to attract and keep them in this important job.
- If wages don't keep going up, we might lose progress we've made, providers will have trouble finding DSPs, and **people with disabilities might not get the support they need**.

The Solution: This Amendment

If provider costs go up, DODD would adjust rates based on the process they establish. The legislature isn't setting exact increases but is **requiring DODD to review costs and adjust** as needed.

- **Starting in 2028**, this amendment requires the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) work with people with disabilities, families, providers, county boards and others to come up with a way to **adjust rates each year** based on costs. This means we won't need a huge, sudden increase later.
- **Before 2028**, this amendment asks for smaller increases to help boost pay:
 - **3.4% increase** starting January 1, 2026 (enough for about a \$0.65/hour raise)
 - **2.3% increase** starting January 1, 2027 (enough for about a \$0.45/hour raise)

The Cost

This amendment will cost the state about **\$24 million in 2026** and **\$66.4 million in 2027**.

Action Steps

Your voice matters! The budget is currently in the House of Representatives. You can help make sure this important amendment passes by taking the following steps:

- **Submit Testimony:** Share your story and explain why regular pay raises for DSPs are important. You can submit written testimony or request to testify in person to the House Health Committee. Check the [committee's website](#) for hearing schedules and submission instructions.
- **Contact Your Legislators:** Call or write to your State Representative. Explain the importance of this amendment and urge them to support it. You can find their contact information on the [Ohio House website](#). Let them know how this impacts their community.

- **Contact Members of the House Finance or House Health Committees.** Call or write members of these committees currently considering the budget and amendments. Explain the importance of this amendment and urge them to support it. Let them know how this impacts you.

Committee Member Email	Phone	Finance	Health
Jean Schmidt	614-466-8134	X	X - Chair
Kellie Deeter	614-466-9628		X – Vice Chair
Anita Somani	614-466-5358		X – Ranking Member
Brian Stewart	614-466-1464	X - Chair	X
Michael D. Dovilla	614-466-4895	X – Vice Chair	
Bride Rose Sweeney	614-466-3350	X – Ranking Member	
Cindy Abrams	614-466-9091	X	
Rachel B. Baker	614-644-6886	X	X
Tim Barhorst	614-466-1507		X
Adam C. Bird	614-644-6034	X	
Beryl Brown Piccolantonio	614-466-4847	X	
Karen Brownlee	614-466-8120		X
Jamie Callender	614-644-6074	X	
Meredith Craig	614-466-1474		X
Chris Glassburn	614-466-3100	X	
Michele Grim	614-644-6017	X	X
Jennifer Gross	614-466-8550		X
Thomas Hall	614-644-5094	X	
James M. Hoops	614-466-3760	X	
Dani Isaacsohn	614-466-5786	X	
Dontavius L. Jarrells	614-466-5343	X	
Marilyn John	614-466-5802	X	
Mark Johnson	614-644-7928	X	
Don Jones	614-644-8728	X	
Angela N. King	614-466-9624		X
Gayle Manning	614-644-5076	X	
Melanie Miller	614-466-0961		X
Phil Plummer	614-644-8051	X	
Sharon A. Ray	614-466-8140	X	
Kevin Ritter	614-466-2158	X	
Phillip M. Robinson, Jr.	614-644-6041	X	
Bill Roemer	614-644-5085	X	
Veronica R. Sims	614-644-6037	X	
Jim Thomas	614-466-8030	X	
Daniel P. Troy	614-466-7251	X	
Andrea White	614-644-6008	X	X