**Please put on your agency letterhead**

Ohio Senate

Finance Subcommittee on Health and Medicaid

Chairperson Hackett and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am [Name] and writing to provide testimony on behalf of [your agency] where I serve as the [your position]. [In two or three sentences describe your agency. Things you may want to include: how many people do you serve, how many employees do you have and how many DSPs do you have, how many counties do you provide services in and their general location in the state, any stats you think set your agency apart.]

I want to express my deepest gratitude to Governor DeWine, Director Davis, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, and the Ohio House of Representatives who, separately and collectively, have made an unprecedented investment in services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

I am appreciative of the administration’s proposal to invest in the homemaker/personal care service to help increase the average wage of DSPs providing that service. I am even more appreciative for the commitment from your colleagues in the House to build off of the DeWine Administration’s executive budget to further increase the average wage of a DSP providing the homemaker/personal care service. [Add a two or three sentences on how this will help your DSPs- you may want to focus on your DSPs as a collective group or highlight how the increase could impact one specific DSP. Add one or two sentences on how you believe the increase will benefit the individuals you support.] As an agency committed to providing services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, the investment helps ensure my agency can continue to provide our array of services.

The developmental disabilities services field is in agreement on the direction and actions to be taken to increase our support and positive outcomes for individuals with disabilities and their valued DSPs. This is a compliment to the current administration under Governor DeWine, self-advocates, parents, families, county boards, private providers, and the Ohio House and Senate. On behalf of my agency, my staff, and the individuals we support, I encourage you, Senator Burke and Members of this Committee, to support the proposed budget provisions relevant to the Department of Developmental Disabilities. Together we will succeed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Name, Agency