**Summary of HB 64 (as introduced) Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities Funding Initiatives**

HB 64 as introduced offers an historic investment of new monies into Ohio’s Developmental Disabilities System designed to meet the needs of those waiting for services, increase choice and strengthen structural flaws in existing service models.

This interwoven package of funding initiatives provides a comprehensive response to the many existing pressures (internal and external) currently facing Ohio’s DD System. This new funding also reflects a realization that the state of Ohio has a role and an obligation in funding services for individuals with developmental disabilities. Since FY 2001 Ohio’s general revenue fund commitment for DD services has actually **decreased** by 6.83%.

**Supporting those in crisis and waiting for services**

Funds 2000 new Individual Options Waivers

* New waivers for those who require emergency services
* Reduces waiting lists
* New waivers for those currently in ICFs who wish to leave (first time ever offered)

Funds 1000 new SELF Waivers

* Reduces waiting lists
* Offers specialized supports for individuals with complex behavioral needs
* Offers ability to self-direct services
* Cost-effective service model

**Strengthens Ohio’s DD Home and Community Based Waiver System**

Convert Transitions DD Waiver to Individual Options Waiver

* Increases service options for individuals on Transitions Waiver
* Increases Provider Pool
* Increases day program and employment options
* Increases simplicity for individuals and families and reduces administrative complexity by transitioning from four waivers to three

Direct Support Staff 6% Rate Increase

* Recognizes existing workforce crisis
* Current direct care wages average between $8.50 and $9.50/hr.
* Many direct care staff work more than one job
* Many direct care staff are themselves on public assistance
* Improves recruitment and retention
* Hiring and sustaining a quality direct care workforce is the single biggest long-term challenge in Ohio’s DD system

Funds Behavior Support Add-on

* Incentivizes providers to serve individuals with complex behavioral challenges
* Supports additional staffing challenges in serving individuals with complex behavioral challenges
* DODD administration of new behavior support add-on funding ensures greater consistency of application and availability

Add Nursing Services to the Individual Options Waiver

* Incentivizes providers to serve individuals with complex medical needs
* Increases quality of supports
* Enhances coordination of care
* Facilitates inclusion of TDD waiver into IO Waiver

Please support Ohio’s developmental disabilities system by using the Governor's original budget numbers. The funding is critically important to thousands of Ohioan’s with developmental disabilities. Thank you for your time and consideration.