



December 12, 2022

Dear Ohio Senators,

As we work together to improve services in Ohio, we encourage you to consider the importance of parity of funding across all long term services and supports (LTSS) — nursing homes and home and community based services (HCBS).

While the shortage of workers and resources is felt everywhere, the impact is felt most acutely within our HCBS systems — services provided through the Ohio Department of Medicaid, Aging and Developmental Disability waiver programs. At the same time, the majority of Ohioans prefer HCBS.

The U.S. Supreme Court’s 1999 Olmstead Decision states that people have the right to receive services in the community and the right to avoid unnecessary institutionalization. Every individual and family deserves the right to choose what is best for them.

Disproportionately funding institutional settings, like nursing facilities, will further hurt HCBS systems, as workers will have no choice but to go where the highest paying jobs are available. This could then jeopardize an individual’s right to choose where to receive their LTSS.

We strongly urge policymakers to consider the importance of parity in funding across service systems, so that there is equal opportunity to be employed in both settings and equal opportunity to receive services in both settings.

Without parity across systems, Ohioans will lose their right to choose the setting that is best for them.

If you have any questions, please contact: ohioolmstead@gmail.com.

Thank you for your time,

Renee Wood, Chair of the Ohio Olmstead Task Force

Alexia Kemerling, Vice Chair of the Ohio Olmstead Task Force

Jennifer Kucera, Chair of the Ohio Olmstead Task Force Direct Care Crisis Committee