



CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD of MENTAL RETARDATION and DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

1275 LAKESIDE AVENUE EAST • CLEVELAND, OHIO 44114-1132
(216) 241-8230 • FAX (216) 861-0253 • www.ccbmrdd.org

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Letter of Reference for Charles Arndt

To Whom It May Concern

It is a pleasure to provide this letter of reference for Charles Arndt. I think it fitting that I do so as I have known Mr. Arndt. For 10 years and have worked very closely with him. Our Board here in Cuyahoga County serves more than 8,000 individuals with disabilities. I have seen Mr. Arndt in action on a number of very significant issues, the outcome of which has had a strong, far-reaching, positive impact on the lives of tens of thousands of persons with disabilities, and their families, in the State of Ohio. His actions, resulting in legislative enactments, have caused the funding level for county boards of mental retardation in Ohio to more than double since 1990.

First, let me say that Charles Arndt has been an unwavering supporter and tireless worker on behalf of persons with disabilities. He has 'gone the mile' and there are thousands who, though they may not be aware, have a lot for which to thank him. Charlie would never put it this way, however.

In Cuyahoga County, we had a tremendous need for residential supports. We were forced to use local monies to cover 100% of the cost of those supports because waivers were not available. Charlie established a plan for refinancing and waiver expansion under H.B.94/405. For Cuyahoga County, this plan resulted in initial savings of \$8 million, and additional residential supports for about 500 individuals who had been on waiting lists valued at over \$20 million.

Another project undertaken by Charlie, H.B. 770, Educational Funding Reforms (1998) has had a very significant impact because it gave us higher funding per capita to children in our county based on severity of disability. It expanded funding for a range of services, meaning approximately \$1.5 million in additional assistance for Cuyahoga County.

Charlie's efforts leading to enactment of S.B. 257 and H.B. 93, Replacement Levy Law, also resulted in millions of dollars of increased revenues for us over the years. In fact, we were able to use this law to replace our existing five year levy for a continuing period of time and expand revenues from 100 million per year to \$120 million per year.

I truly believe that, were it not for the energy and intelligence of Charles Arndt, things would look much different for Ohio's county boards of mr/dd. His resume has much to tell and is without exaggeration. He truly has been a champion in his field.

Please feel free to call with questions or to discuss Mr. Arndt's accomplishments in greater detail.

Sincerely,


Terrrence M. Ryan, Ph.D.
Superintendent