As a member of the Ohio Association of Goodwill Industries, we would like to express our appreciation for the flexibility and creativity demonstrated by Director Miller and the OOD staff during this unprecedented time.  OOD has demonstrated a willingness to rapidly develop services to keep individuals engaged. This has allowed vendors like Goodwill to maintain a minimum number of skilled vocational rehabilitation staff as the result of the funding  through new service delivery options.   These include allowing the purchase of Job Seeking Skills Training while an individual is in active Job Development and most recently the Reach Service, both of which can be provided remotely in order to ensure the health and safety of staff and the individuals we all serve.   We believe we are facing challenging times ahead as many of the individuals we serve, historically, have been at a disadvantage in returning to the workforce when an economic downturn occurs such as this, thus more engagement with and on behalf of individuals who were laid off will need to occur in order to assist them in returning to work successfully.  Likewise, those seeking employment during these challenging times will need strong supports to compete with so many others who find themselves out of work at this point.   We are hopeful that we can continue to work collaboratively with OOD to provide additional options such as short-term skills training in the use of technology in order to assist those we serve in being able to compete in the new virtual reality of job seeking and interviewing as well as short term training which result in industry recognized credentials.  We are hopeful the level of communication and creativity will continue to be a leading force in the decision-making process regarding current and future services for Ohioans with Disabilities.

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