

## Memorandum

**To:** PI Committee  
**From:** Jennifer Riha and Anthony Kukura  
**Date:** December 1, 2024  
**Subject:** Governmental Relations 2024 Year in Review

### Section I: Executive Summary

In the inaugural year of the Boundless Government Relations (GR) Department, the impact of our work can be easily seen throughout the organization. In the volatile political environment we find ourselves in, our work in this regard has never been more critical. Often, results in this field take many years to cultivate and are dependent on political dynamics that are often out of our direct control. However, the foundation of success is relationship building rooted in a long-term strategy for positive policy changes that benefit the individuals we serve and our industry at large. As we move into the year ahead, our work will continue with a steady hand, and a focus on achieving our short-term and long-term policy goals.

### Section II: A Year in Review, 2024 Statistics and Achievements

Throughout 2024, the GR team engaged in a variety of activities that further advanced our policy goals:

- 100+ hours spent directly advocating for our services with elected leaders and governmental officials\*
- 16+ hours spent lobbying for our services and policy goals with elected leaders\*
- 80+ people recruited to join our Boundless Advocates grassroots advocacy group\*
- 70+ interactions with government officials and elected leaders\*
- Furthered our relationships with our key partners including OPRA, ANCOR, and the Ohio Council, which set us up as a key player in our collective advocacy work
- Shared and broadcasted our message, and GA focus, with other providers and stakeholders at conferences and policy seminars

\*All these numbers will continue to grow as we move throughout the end of this year; we have several activities planned for December with elected leaders. Boundless Advocates recruitment will continue as well.

### Section III: Looking Ahead, Political Dynamics and Expectations for 2025

- **Local Level Dynamics**
  - At the local level, Boundless will continue to forge and establish relationships with our major metro areas. This year we started these conversations with Cleveland/ Cuyahoga County, along with Columbus/ Franklin County. In the year ahead we aim to begin these conversations with Akron/Summit County, Toledo/ Lucas County, and Dayton/ Montgomery County. Reach areas/ non

- major metros, will include: Medina County and Licking County.
  - Our goals with these conversations are to build and establish relationships, as well as determine areas of partnership between Boundless and these entities. Cities and counties also have funds/ resources that Boundless may be able to solicit and take advantage of in certain instances.
  - None of the political dynamics at these local levels will change too much in the year ahead, which is an advantage to us as we go about these conversations. However, 2025 will be a local election year, which we will monitor to determine how that outcome may affect our 2026 approach.
- **State Level Dynamics**
  - At the state level, we have begun to see what the incoming General Assembly will look like. While the Republican Party will easily retain their majorities in both the state house and the state senate, Democrats did make some small but significant gains. In the state house, Democrats picked up two seats, which will deny the Republican Party supermajority status in that chamber. This will be a key factor in the upcoming budget process. The majority party has less power over the floor and the legislative process without supermajority status. While Republican Party still will control most of the budget process, the Democratic Minority will have more influence over the process in this next cycle.
    - While the Republican caucus has lost their supermajority status in the State House, they retain their veto-proof majorities in both chambers. This means if all Republicans in the House and Senate vote as a block they can override a veto from Gov. DeWine.
  - What has not yet been settled is who will be the next Speaker of the Ohio House. It is still unclear as to if current Senate President Matt Huffman, who did win his election to the House, will be able to win enough votes to oust current Speaker Stephens. We will continue to monitor this as it will alter our strategy as to which members will engage with throughout the next budget cycle.
  - Before the year is up, we plan to engage with several legislators we have engaged with before. This will allow us to check in with members we already have relationships with as we move into the budget season. We also will continue to invite out key members for site visits to continue establishing new relationships.
- **Federal Level Dynamics**
  - At the Federal level next year, the Republican Party will hold a trifecta in Washington DC, meaning we will have a Republican President along with a congress where both houses are controlled by the Republican Party. These majorities will be narrow, so it is still unclear what the size and scale of the Republican agenda will be in the next congress. The biggest concerns from our standpoint are any reforms related to Medicaid, and some other tax proposals related to nonprofit statuses.
  - On the Administrative front, the Trump Administration is likely to support a large-scale rollback of regulations across the board. This should open the door for the current overtime rule to be overturned, which will benefit our organization. However, this is a process that may take time given this rule has already begun to be implemented. We also will continue to explore ways to modify the access rule given as it currently stands it places a large undue

burden on our organization and our industry in general.

- On the legislative front, we will continue to advocate for legislative to create a standard occupational classification for our DSPs, reform the 988 crisis call center line, eliminate unfunded mandates for Medicaid funded services, and in the long term look to continue to establish relationships for potential line item funding initiatives, and establish new champions for Medicaid/ HCBS, and behavioral health services.
- It is our expectation that the incoming Republican majority will seek to rollback and cut certain areas of healthcare spending. It is our aim to ensure that we continue to educate members on the unique services we provide and that our population occupies a unique corner of the healthcare area. We expect to see cuts proposed related to health subsidies, Medicaid expansion, and perhaps discussions around the FMAP formula.