

## **Tim Sohosky Presentation Summary**

*I wanted to share a quick update on House Bill 1939, introduced in October by Reps. Benham and Ortity. The bill would amend the current Human Services Code to create a more consistent process for setting and adjusting fee schedule rates within the IDD waiver programs. It's being referred to as the "ID/A Market Index Bill" and is meant to help ensure provider payments ID/A services better reflect actual costs. It creates an annual inflation based increase process that uses CPI-U to set an increase percentage in line with the previous year's inflation rate.*

*There are some concerns about the provider penalties that are in the bill. Essentially if a provider fails to pass through the increase to their DSPs, they are penalized. This could create scenarios where struggling providers or providers who have unanticipated cost increases may be further burdened which jeopardizes the ability to operate. Additionally, all of the language in the bill assumes adequate allocations in the budget. The legislature could flat fund or reduce allocations in any given year and negate the rate increase proposed in the bill.*

*If it moves forward, HB 1939 could help stabilize provider funding and make it easier for organizations to maintain staffing levels and invest in quality improvements. The bill is still sitting in the House Human Services Committee, so nothing final yet, but it's one to keep an eye on.*