



# MIAMI VALLEY

Regional Planning Commission

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03/13/2017

Chairman Romanchuk, Ranking Minority Member Sykes and distinguished committee members, my name Bob Steinbach and I am the Director of Sustainable Solutions and Transportation Alternatives for the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission in Dayton.

As the agency which convenes the Miami Valley Regional Transportation Coordination Council, I have come to know and respect the local staff of the Access Center for Independent Living and have participated in training sponsored by the organization. Two Access Center staff regularly attend the Coordination Council meetings which I convene. Their perspective is extremely valuable.

I am writing to you today in support of the General Assembly of Ohio reinstating the CIL line item (415520) for the Centers for Independent Living in the SF 2018-2019 Budget: The CILs used to get GRF dollars directly. These funds were critical and opportunities for individuals with disabilities and the communities they live. The centers need these state direct service funds to leverage additional federal opportunities to help individuals with disabilities to be independent. Some of these funds leverage \$3.69 for every state dollar. Some funds could be leveraged at the even higher level \$9 federal dollars for every \$1.00 spent. Please reinstate this line item and add \$1.7 million dollars to bring Ohio in line with other states in the region.

I have seen how positive role the Center has played in the lives of people with disabilities. It provides the opportunity for people with disabilities to have more productive and independent roles in the community. I believe their services end up saving taxpayer dollars by helping people with disabilities live freer, more independent lives.

The two staff members who attend my coordination meetings have disabilities themselves. The Center not only provides them with meaningful employment opportunities, but they speak with special authority. They are able to better understand the needs of their clients and to articulate those needs to people who have not yet faced a disability.

Centers also provide the highly cost effective service of transitioning individuals from institutions to the community. Each individual that has been transitioned provides a major cost savings to the federally funded long-term care programs. By investing more money into CILs, we can provide additional cost savings to the state and therefore is a wise investment of public dollars. Promoting community based living is a main component of CILs, and we can advance this much further if the program was adequately funded.

The Access Centers for Independent Living help people with disabilities become fuller members of our community. This is good for the individuals, the community and our society. Please support their work to make Ohio a state that supports independence and effort for all.

Sincerely,

Bob Steinbach

Director of Sustainable Solutions and Transportation Alternatives

