

*abilitycenter.org*

**SYLVANIA OFFICE:**

5605 Monroe Street  
Sylvania, Ohio 43560

419.885.5733 (V/TTY)  
866.885.5733 (Toll-free)  
419.882.4813 (Fax)

**OTTAWA CO. OFFICE:**

1848 E. Perry Street  
Suite 110  
Port Clinton, OH 43452

419.734.0330 (V/TTY)  
877.734.0330 (Toll-free)  
419.732.6864 (Fax)

**BRYAN OFFICE:**

1425 E. High Street  
Suite 108  
Bryan, OH 43506

419.633.1400 (V/TTY)  
855.633.1400 (Toll-free)  
419.633.1410 (Fax)

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*Executive Director*

March 2017

Honorable Mark Romanchuk,

It is with great pride that I represent The Ability Center of Greater Toledo, serving northwest Ohio. The Center is grounded in a philosophy and operating standard of consumer control. From the Board of Trustees to front line staff, we empower individuals with disabilities to lead their lives with greater independence and perseverance.

Started by the Toledo Rotary Club in 1920, the Center has continued to evolve to keep up with the needs of persons living with disabilities. We have functioned as a Center for Independent Living since 1990, when we became eligible for partial funding through the federal government. We were also the benefactor of GRF funding with strong support in the legislature from Representative Joan Lawrence, a champion of independence for all people.

In the grips of the recession, funding for Centers for Independent Living was pulled from the budget and never replaced. We have met with our local legislative representatives and are confident they will attest to the quality of our programs and the outcomes we create for the people we service.

Of behalf of my Board of Trustees and the consumers we serve, I ask that the Committee please reinstate the CIL line item (415520) for the Centers for Independent Living. The work Centers do complements the goal of reducing the cost of institutionalized care by supporting individuals in the community. From transitioning individuals out of nursing homes, to assuring students with disabilities have a path after high school, we change lives every day.

We ask for your support in the budget process.

Sincerely,



Tim Harrington  
Executive Director

cc: Rep. Derek Merrin  
Rep. Craig Reidel  
Rep. Michael Sheehy

**OUR MISSION:** *To assist people with disabilities to live, work and socialize within a fully accessible community.*