

From: Mary Hall Eric Biel, and Mandale Satterfield. We are all residents of 7531 Central College Rd, New Albany, Ohio 43054. Phone number 614 403 4627

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee,

I am here today to testify for my sons Eric and Mandale, and their sister Kathleen. All three of our adult children, are medically fragile and have lived in the community. We receive excellent supports from Ohio's waiver programs. Mandale receives nursing services. Eric and Kathleen died of natural causes and lived very rich and rewarding lives thanks to the benevolent waiver programs that care for people in Ohio. I also own an agency that I started to provide IO waiver services my way and serve several families and individuals in central Ohio. I know we all want to express our thanks for this precious funding that has allowed our children to be served safely and efficiently.

Today I want to speak of the danger that our children who are medically fragile or need complex care face. The cost of Nurse Delegation, an unfunded mandate added after the waivers were operationalized, is making it almost impossible for agencies to serve the most fragile in our communities. This budget proposal allows for funding to assist with offsetting this cost. We are indeed desperate for this funding to assure our children's futures. As the employment market and other costs have made waiver services more difficult to support these unfunded mandates have become impossible to include under existing rates. Additional monies in this budget support the skill level needed and training for aides to do this complex care and for the nurses needed to oversee their work.

I am grateful for more waiver slots and raises for our hard working impoverished care givers who are willing to get training in order to receive additional funds.

We must see the Monies maintained in the DD budget to allow these options to continue and to allow people to receive waivers among other DD support system services. My children and I have been so blessed to have such complete lives together. My daughter Kathleen and my sons have enjoyed participation in every facet of community life. I know that these funds are the key to successful community life and implementation of the OLMSTEAD decision in Ohio.

Thank you for providing funding for more waiver slots to allow others to experience family and or community life as we have. I also thank you for monies which allow quality care to continue in all settings across Ohio.

I beseech you members of the committee and Mr. Chairman to continue to support these opportunities for people with disabilities. The ability of the most fragile to live fully in their setting of choice depends on appropriate funding.

Thank you all for your continued devotion to People with Disabilities.