



DEAF SERVICES CENTER

Serving Ohio's Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Hearing Communities
5830 N. High Street • Worthington, OH 43085

House State and Local Government Committee
State of Ohio

October 30, 2017

Dear Members,

The Kasich Administration has been extremely supportive of policies that improve the lives and opportunities of individuals with disabilities, and we look forward to a continued partnership towards that goal. Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) continues to be a significant resource to the administration when it comes to policies that affect the disability community. Therefore, it is essential that OOD receives the highest quality of information and feedback from the consumers and communities they serve.

We strongly encourage the establishment of the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Council, which would make Ohio compliant with federal law. Currently OOD receives feedback from three separate entities – the seven member OOD Commission, the seventeen member Consumer Advisory Council, and the twenty-one member Governor's Council on People with Disabilities. The OOD Council would streamline the roles of the current entities that represent individuals with disabilities in Ohio, while expanding the opportunities for broader representation from multiple disability disciplines.

As an agency that provides services to the Deaf, hard of hearing, and Deaf-blind communities, we know how important it is partner with government entities at the state level. Creating the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Council will give Deaf Services Center (DSC) a streamlined resource outlining guidelines and governance for administering the work that we do within the disabilities community that we serve. We stand in strong support of passing SB 144 to create the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Council.

Respectfully yours,

John L. Moore
CEO/Executive Director