



## Ohio Self Determination Association

*OSDA creates change that empowers  
people with disabilities and their  
families to direct their lives.*

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May 12, 2019

The Honorable Bob D. Hackett, State Senator and Chair  
Senate Finance Subcommittee on Health and Medicaid

Re: Non-Medical Transportation

Dear Chairman Hackett:

Please accept this testimony on behalf of The Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA), a statewide, Non-Profit, Policy Advocacy organization in Ohio. OSDA is not a trade association, but an organization governed by a board with members who represent all stakeholders in the developmental disability system.

**OSDA has been actively involved, over the past two years, in a workgroup made up of stakeholders representing all parts of the DD system, to identify changes to Non-Medical Transportation funded by the Medicaid Waivers serving people with DD.** Those represented over the past two years include everyone listed in the proposed language of H. B. 166, Section 261.230, with the exception of b iii, c and d. The proposal and funding included in the introduced version of H.B. 166 provided for changes to Ohio's system that would allow people with disabilities to get to work, attend classes, visit friends and be an active part of their communities. The proposal's funding also enables private providers to better respond to the needs of those who rely on them for transportation.

**OSDA strongly opposes the amendment to withhold these funds and establish yet another workgroup to further study the issue and provide a report in 2020.** Trying to please everyone is a losing battle and I feel sure you may hear from some who resist change to Ohio's system, but Ohio must change if Medicaid funds are to continue to support services to those with DD.

Leaving the amendment as is delays much needed fiscal relief to providers and more importantly, causes people with disabilities to face continued isolation and be at the mercy of vans and buses and their schedules. Could you live your life without a vehicle? **OSDA respectfully requests the reinstatement of the proposal for Non-Medical Transportation and the \$9.8 million in funding to implement it.**

Sincerely,

Dana Charlton

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