

From: Mary Hall, Robert 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 to today to testify for my sons Eric and Mandale and their sister Kathleen. All three of these, our adult children, are medically fragile and have lived in the community. We receive excellent supports from Ohio's waiver programs. Mandale receives nursing and Eric attendant care. Kathleen died at home last year of natural causes and lived a very rich life thanks to the benevolent programs that care for people in Ohio. I 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 allows our children to be fully integrated into society.

We are here to express our support of the state budget proposals. 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. Going to Malls, eating out, libraries, plays, movies, Church groups, scouting, vacations, parks and picnics, all on a regular basis. They have been able to enjoy most of what others consider necessary for their mental health and quality of life.

I so want to express our support and appreciation for the funding that allows them to be so well served in their own home. We remain grateful for this funding but know that without raises our system cannot continue to provide services in this way. Thank you for proposing a small raise that will help those who care for our precious Adult children. Thank you for providing funding for more waiver slots to allow others to experience family and or community life as we have.

Our little company serves people who would otherwise be in or have been in institutional care. This funding and these opportunities are precious. My own son Mandale lived in a nursing home for a time. It was not a good environment for him. At 8 years of age his family asked us to take him as they could not care for him and were not satisfied with his life in a nursing home. We have so enjoyed a life with him.

We are very concerned about the transition away from private providers. The department of DD has said they are adding to the IO waiver a self-directed option to take the place of private providers. Please help us as families to assure that this includes nursing and is adequately funded to assure our system continues to effective. My son Mandale uses IP nurses we are concerned about this transition. However we are optimistic about the future of services in the community. It works and it has been working!!

I beseech you members of the committee and Mr. Chairman to continue to support these opportunities for people with disabilities. I assure you that I am in routine contact with many people with very severe disabilities who are living well and are safe in the homes they chose in the community. Please move forward with continuing and expanding these precious supports.