

My name is Nancy Lubanovich of New Carlisle, Ohio. I am speaking on May 14th for my developmentally disabled daughter, Sancy.

I really do appreciate your efforts on all disabled citizens. I can't imagine what an extremely difficult position you are in.

Sancy worked at various retail jobs, but they didn't turn out to be the right places for her. Luckily, TAC was offered and became like a second home for her. I'm told that some people believe TAC (or any sheltered workshop) is segregated and that it is demeaning to have our children working there. This just isn't true. The people working there feel safe and protected. If having these people in one workplace, means they are segregated, then you would have to consider Special Olympics segregated. It is a great program and I don't believe that anyone has ever considered it as being unfair or demeaning.

Sancy worked with agency providers, but that didn't work out for the best. We were offered an independent provider and that has truly been a Godsend for us. Although the agency providers did have some excellent employees, the company wasn't able to keep them as wages or benefits couldn't compete with the employees' other employment options. Therefore, we were constantly changing providers which was very upsetting for everyone involved.

I understand the state doesn't want to be responsible for the independent providers. I would have no problem doing the necessary items to cover what the state doesn't want to do. However, I'm sure there are a lot of parents that wouldn't or couldn't handle that area. As the agency providers are responsible for their employees, I'm sure the independent providers would be glad and more than able to be responsible for themselves. I believe they are already doing a large portion of that paperwork now. The independent providers give us a true choice for our children. I'm sure no one wants to take any choices from us, but in effect, the law would be doing that. Surely we can come up with a fair and equal solution. America has always been about freedom of choice.

I am also familiar with the Mueller home as my nephew lives there. He has Cerebral Palsy and is very restricted as to movement, feeding himself or speech. He would not be able to live by himself. I hear stories of people that were living in this type of home and are now homeless. I also hear of them being placed in jails and prisons as the courts have no where else to send them. This is definitely not a desirable solution for these people. Our country spends billions and billions on overseas countries to help them. Why aren't we doing the same for our own countrymen and women. Let's not short change some of our most deserving citizens. I know the disabled are very silent members of our community. That's why I feel we must speak up and let people know about them and their needs.

At this time, I have been asked to read Joyce Spangler's testimony. She was unable to be with us as it was necessary for her to be with one of her clients today. She wouldn't let her client down. Therefore, this is her testimony.

Good afternoon, my name is Joyce Spangler of Enon, Ohio and I have been working as an IP provider for the past 11 years. I chose my vocation because I saw and knew people with

special needs being ignored, abused and manipulated by their agency caregivers. I advocate for high quality care and human rights for all people with special needs.

Recently the IP issue was removed from House Bill 64 to be dealt with separately. Many questions arise as to how this will improve services to our individuals with special needs and their families. Reasoning for doing this according to State officials was because of fraud, but we all know now that it is because of the Fair Labor Laws which could classify IP's as employees of the State.

I stand up against these proposals that will force the IP to work under Employer Authority. Non-agency providers will be re-classified as employees of the families and/or individuals for whom they care, and families will have "employer authority" - a designation that carries new powers and responsibilities.

What happened to logical thinking? Do you think our most vulnerable and frail citizens/parents can take on these additional burdens and responsibilities by becoming an employer and adhering to all it will entail, IRS requirements, insurance requirements and so forth? Of course they can't.

Families will be robbed of their rights to keep their choice of provider without encumbering stipulations! This decision will cause parents and families to be once again overburdened by more responsibilities.. Why mess with a system that has served our most vulnerable population for many years? A system that fosters a caring trustful relationship between their IP and their families. Employer Authority as planned will not build trust, enhance well-being, independence and encourage relationships with their IP caregivers.. Families are still the most effective voice for their disabled loved ones, they do know and can tell when their child is happy with their IP and receives quality care with compassion. There is fraud as we all know in both independent and agency, so will you eventually dismantle the agency also? I would think one would handle this problem with the person directly and not make one suffer from another's actions. For example in a family when one child does something wrong, we do not punish the children that weren't involved.

I ask each and every Senator and Committee Member to carefully seek a better plan for our DD population. I request that the independent care provider option without Employer Authority be preserved. Families need the CHOICE but without Employer Authority. Someone once said "When common sense makes sense, seek no other sense".

**Thank you for your supporting our DD population with choice.
Joyce Spangler IP**

Thank you again for your time in hearing our concerns. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask them.

Thankyou again for your time in hearing our concerns. If you have anyquestions, please feel free to ask them.