

**Senate Medicaid Committee:**

**Chair, Senator David Burke**

May 8, 2015

**HB64 Testimony** by Christine Brown, Self Advocate,  
5340 Darlington Road, Columbus, Ohio 43220

Hello Senator Burke, Ranking Member Cafaro and members of the committee. My name is Christine Brown. I live in Franklin County and am a member of the Governor's Council for People with Disabilities, the Chair of the central region of the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA), and a member of the Self Advocate Advisory Council of the Franklin County Board of DD.

My testimony today is about concerns with the Budget Bill (Amended Substitute House Bill 64) as it was approved by the House of Representatives.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Cafaro and committee members, I request, with respect, that you work together on the following issues:

- **Remove the amendments to Section 5123.62, the DD Bill of Rights from H.B. 64.** Adding the words "by or with their parents or guardians" to many of the existing rights is a big concern as it seems to take away the right of the individual to make decisions on his own. This is not good. If parents are concerned about their children making bad decisions, they should look at the current guardianship section of Ohio law and not change the rights section, which affects everyone – me included!
- **Restore the cuts in Medicaid Waiver Match funds in each fiscal year and support the increase to the Individual Options (IO) waiver by 2000 and to the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) Waiver by 1000.** People living in state operated developmental centers and in privately operated Medicaid facilities who would like to live in the community and those on waiting lists need the services from Medicaid waivers that this money can provide. Just because they move out does not mean they do not need services.
- **Restore cuts for rental assistance.** Those who have been on the waiting list for years and want to move to more integrated settings in communities need the help this can provide.
- **Hold harmless the funds earmarked to go to County Boards of DD to maintain current Medicaid waiver levels.** If County Boards of DD lose this money, people with disabilities already receiving service will either, lose their services and have to live with big cuts in services.
- **Please REQUIRE the Director of the Ohio Department of Medicaid to create a "self directed" component to all DD Medicaid Waivers.** This will make it possible for people with disabilities to have the support they need to continue to work with non-agency providers. The waiver recipient or their representative can become the legally responsible employer of the direct service worker or can partner with an agency who agrees to be the employer on the individual's behalf.
- **Please support the 6% increase in rates for waiver providers for personal care services provided to people with developmental disabilities.** Providers have not had a rate increase in years and need this rate increase so that good workers will stay and not leave to take higher paying jobs at places like McDonalds.

Thank you for listening.

Christine Brown