

Testimony for Centers for Independent Living
House Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services
March 9, 2017

Chairman Romanchuk, Ranking Minority Member Sykes and House committee members, I am Dennis Grant and as the Executive Director of United Rehabilitation Services of greater Dayton, I wanted to extend my opinion and full endorsement of the Ohio General Assembly reinstating the CIL line item (415520) to further support the Centers for Independent Living (CIL) in the SF 2018 – 2019 Budget.

Previously, the CIL's received GRF dollars directly which created opportunities for them to serve individuals with disabilities and the communities they live. The Centers still desperately need these direct service funds in order to leverage additional federal funding to help individuals with disabilities to be more independent and included in their communities. Some of these funds actually leverage \$3.69 for every state dollar invested. Other funds could be leveraged at the even higher level \$9 in federal monies for every \$1.00 spent which reflects a truly amazing return on investment for our State. Please reinstate this line item and add \$1.7 million dollars to bring Ohio in line with other states in the region.

Centers for Independent Living play an important role in the lives of people with disabilities, and are dedicated to ensuring people with disabilities have a real choice in where and how they live, work, and participate in the community. Promoting community based living is a main component of CILs, and we can advance this much further if the program was adequately funded. Furthermore, by transitioning individuals from institutions to the community, they create significant cost savings for federally funded long-term care programs

The Centers provide employment to people with disabilities for over half their staff. This gives the Centers the ability to provide a peer-to-peer level of support to the individuals we serve. This becomes a great resource for people with disabilities that need services from people that better understand the disabilities and barriers that people face.

Centers also provide the highly cost effective service of
Centers are working daily to increase the independence of individuals and to make our communities more inclusive and removing barriers. We appreciate your support in making Ohio a more inclusive state with your investment in the Centers for Independent Living.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,



Dennis G. Grant
Executive Director