



Written Testimony  
Members of the Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee  
October 11, 2017

Chairman LaRose, Vice-Chairwoman Kunze, Ranking-Member Schiavoni and members of the Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee, I thank you for this opportunity to present written proponent testimony on Am. H.B. 195. I would also like to thank Senator Seitz and Senator Ingram for cosponsoring this legislation.

Transportation is the lifeblood of society, and centers for independent living and other advocates across the state are working together to improve options for people with disabilities. Taxis provide an essential link to the community and other transit options; people who use mobility devices such as power wheelchairs, however, are excluded from using this service when accessible vehicles are not available. Am. H.B. 195 will revise chapter 4766 of the Ohio Revised Code to clear an unnecessary legal barrier that governs accessible taxis as ambulettes, and makes them more expensive to operate, and thereby less profitable.

There is a market to transport a person with disabilities that is being increasingly addressed in cities like Seattle, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, and Tampa. Ohio needs to move forward on this issue, which not only affects our disabled citizens' ability to work, play, shop and fully participate, but also limits the ability of tourists with disabilities to visit our cities and patronize our businesses.

Municipalities already impose the majority of the taxi operator regulations. Cities and towns regulate taxis within their borders. They can require disability etiquette, ADA law, and accessible transportation equipment training for licensing requirements, and inspections.

On demand accessible transportation services can substantially lower the cost of publicly provided mass transit and other wheelchair accessible services, while providing a superior level of service at the same time. I hope you will support Am. H.B. 195 as a step towards transportation equity for people with disabilities.

Thank you Chairman LaRose, Vice-Chairwoman Kunze, Ranking Member Schiavoni and the members of the committee for allowing us to offer proponent testimony on Am. H.B. 195. I would be happy to answer any questions from the committee should you wish to contact me.

Kat Lyons  
Advocacy Coordinator  
klyons@cilo.net

**Greater Cincinnati**

2031 Auburn Avenue  
Cincinnati, OH 45219  
**Phone:** 513-241-2600  
**Fax:** 513-241-1707

**Northern Kentucky**

525 West Fifth Street  
Suite 218  
Covington, KY 41011  
**Phone:** 859-341-4346  
**Fax:** 859-341-1252

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