November 5, 2019

Ohio House Health Committee

Proponent Testimony HB 188

Prohibit blindness from denying or limiting care of minors.

Submitted by: Richard Payne

My name is Richard Payne, I am a blind parent and for my daughter is the love of my life. When me and her mother was able to have her, it gave us great joy. We both are blind and because of that people thought that we would not be able to be good parents. Her mother wanted to take custody of her child and others thought we would not be able to do the things she would need to be a healthy kid like changing dipers and giving meds. We decided to take care of her and that was the best thing that we have ever done. Why anyone would think it is right to take a child from a blind person on the fact that they are blind is a very crazy thought in this day and time. The fact is that blind people have been raising children forever.

Richard Payne, President

National Federation of the Blind of Ohio

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