

From: Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE)
Re: Testimony regarding Ohio State Budget
Date: June 4, 2019

Chairman Dolan, Vice Chair Burke, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the Senate Finance Committee, we write to you today to provide testimony on a concerning provision amended into Ohio's Budget Bill, House Bill 166 that impacts people with disabilities.

Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) is a national advocacy organization led by people with developmental disabilities for people with developmental disabilities. One of our board members, Diana Mairose an Ohio resident, has shared her concern about a provision in the Ohio State Budget section 5123.603. The alarming proposed change is not in the best interest of Ohioans with disabilities.

As a national organization of people with developmental disabilities working closely with all states, we are confused and disappointed that Ohio is proposing the possible removal of Disability Rights Ohio as the protection and advocacy organization.

Disability Rights Ohio, is an existing, independent organization already effectively working with Ohioans to support their rights. They are an independent voice for us that upholds laws and fights against discrimination without retaliation.

Please remove these changes.

Sincerely,

Bernard Baker, President
Self Advocates Becoming Empowered