



Testimony on HB 162
Erich Bittner, Director of Government Relations
Ohio Association of County Boards of DD
3/23/21

Chair Hillyer, Vice Chair Grendell, Ranking Member Galonski, and members of the House Civil Justice Committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of House Bill 162. The Ohio Association of County Boards of DD applauds Representative Galonski for working to address the numerous provisions of the revised code containing anachronistic or offensive terminology referring to people with disabilities in our state. This language currently serves only to further stigmatize, marginalize, and traumatize Ohioans who already face increased challenges and, in many cases, routine discrimination.

HB 162 will provide a mechanism for stakeholder engagement on the issue, thereby ensuring that the terms ultimately proposed are representative of the groups they address. OACB looks forward to contributing to the modernization of our code as a member of the proposed ABLE Committee should the bill become law.

Thank you, and I am happy to answer any questions at this time.