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Ohio House Civil Justice Committee

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Proponent Testimony SB 202

Prohibit blindness from denying or limiting care of minors

Dear Chair, Brett Hudson Hillyer, Vice Chair, Diane V. Grendell, and Ranking Member, Tavi Galonski,

My name is Joann Williams, I am pleading for you to back Parental Rights Bill (SB 202).

As a mother of three adult and productive, law abiding citizens in Chicago and Cleveland, I would like to urge your support in passing this bill for a vote.

When I was pregnant with my first child, who also was born with a disability, the hospital prevented me from bringing him home. I had to prove that I was capable and had support from my family. Isn't it support that is provided to all young mothers when bringing their child home?

Later in life, I born two additional children with no interference from the health system. By that time, they knew that I was capable of raising my children independently. In 2021, I can not believe that after the Americans With Disability Act, children are still being removed from abled, yet disabled parents. We deserve equal rights and treatment under the law, and you can make this happen.

On behalf of me and my three successful children, we are asking you to represent all disabled Ohioans, so that they will have the same opportunity that I was afforded.

Thank you so much!

Cheerfully,

Joann Williams