

Ohio House of Representatives
Families and Aging Committee
HB 465 - "Lauren's Law"
April 17, 2024

Chairwoman Schmidt, Vice Chair Miller, Ranking member Denson, and members of the Families and Aging Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today.

My name is Janemarie Sowers and this is my daughter Kendra. As you can see, she has significant medical issues and disabilities. She relies on others to do everything for her.

I fully support HB 465, "Lauren's Law". Our children (adult and minor) deserve better than the so-called care they receive in institutions. Frankly, it's not care. It's abuse and neglect that is enabled, tolerated, and ignored by the system. There is no accountability for these institutions.

I encourage you to integrate Lauren's Law into the Medicaid administered waivers also. The components of this bill need to be added to the Ohio Home Care Waiver. OHCW looks great on paper but good luck finding providers. My daughter is authorized 112 hours of nursing care per week because of the level of care she requires. We are nowhere close to having all those hours covered with a paid nurse provider. All those authorized hours that are not covered by a nurse fall on me to provide skilled care along with all the hours in a week over the authorized 112 hours. I have my daughter myself approximately 100 hours a week and provide all her care. 66.25 of those hours are consecutive. I save Ohio Medicaid over \$155,000 a year in nursing services. All the while we are forced to live off public assistance because the program that is supposed to provide services and support to her, fails her. Ohio's paid family caregiver rule (5160-44-32) does not help us. It does not help families who have children like my daughter. We need Lauren's Law so families can keep their loved ones home and provide the loving care they deserve with the financial support the system would gladly pay a nursing facility. We should not be forced to choose between proper care for our disabled children and financially providing for our family. Parents should not be forced onto public assistance simply because their child is disabled, and they chose to keep them at home and utilize home and community -based service.

Thank you,


Janemarie Sowers