

Chairman Cutrona, Vice Chair Gross, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the Health Provider Services Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide support testimony for HB 236; "The Never Alone Act."

I have had to file suit seeking to obtain visitation rights of a disabled woman whose mother guardian was being denied access to her daughter/ward.

I lost the cases both judges (including a probate judge) involved issued rulings that a mother/guardian had no constitutional right to be with her disabled child!

I was shocked at such a result. Even the Office of the Ohio Attorney General agreed to prevent the visitation and filed a brief restricting the mother's rights! Incredible but true. Shame on the judges and government attorneys involved.

We citizens need direct protection from the General Assembly of Ohio.

"I ask the committee members to please vote yes on HB 236."

Gargas, Robert J.