



The Center for Disability Empowerment
Providing Resources and Advocacy for Community Living in Central Ohio

Proponent Testimony on HB33

House Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services

Chairwoman Carruthers, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the House Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, thank you for considering this testimony on HB33. My name is Susan Hetrick and I am the Executive Director of The Center for Disability Empowerment.

I am submitting this testimony to highlight the potential impact of the request for increased funding for Centers for Independent Living in Line Item 415-511. Our center is based in Columbus serves Franklin, Delaware, Union and Licking counties.

Through an increase in funding we have the potential to expand in the following areas and ways:

- A greater capacity to engage and empower youth with disabilities to become independent and to increase their potential as future leaders.
- A greater capacity to support individuals with disabilities to learn independent living skills and to empower them to be full participants and contributors in the communities in which they live, learn, work, worship and play.
- A greater capacity to assist individuals with disabilities to seek and find employment.
- A greater capacity to support those facing homelessness by connecting them to resources, low income housing and assistance with moving. To also support those at risk of institutionalization resulting from lack of access into and out of their existing homes by providing ramps and home modifications.

On behalf of people with disabilities in Central Ohio we appreciate your support.

Respectfully,

Susan Hetrick
Executive Director
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