

**Testimony on HB 33**  
**Senate Finance Committee**

Chairman Dolan, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Sykes, and esteemed committee members, I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony today.

My name is Kara McConnell, and I am in an administrative role at Koinonia. Koinonia is a Northeast Ohio non-profit agency dedicated to serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Koinonia provides residential, adult day and career services to more than 300 people with staff of over 450 professionals. Our services include licensed group homes, supported and shared living and transportation services.

I am very supportive of the budget initiatives outlined by Governor DeWine and Director Hauck for DODD and the budget initiatives outlined by Governor DeWine and Director Miller for Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD).

Over the last several years Koinonia has been finding it difficult to provide services to our IDD community due to the low reimbursement rates and the ability to maintain staff at such a low rate. The service we provide for the people we serve is their lifeline to independence, health, employment, and appreciation. Without our assistance, these people would not be able to be a part of the community and will struggle to thrive as a person.

The budget initiatives for Ohioans with developmental disabilities, guided by the leadership of Director Hauck and Miller, will reinforce, and rebuild the services provided by Koinonia. We encourage this committee to further invest additional funds on top of the House-passed budget for DODD and maintain funding for OOD at the House-passed levels. With your leadership, together we can ensure these services are available to the Ohioans that so greatly need them! Thank you again, for the opportunity and privilege to bring my concerns before you today.

*Kara McConnell*

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