

**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 Nancy Nebenzahl, and I am the mother of Katie Nebenzahl, who lives at 651 Wyleswood Dr., Berea, Ohio. Katie is not able to speak for herself, so I am speaking for her.

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).

My daughter Katie has intellectual developmental disabilities (IDD), as well as physical impairments. She requires around the clock care because of her blindness, limited ability to verbalize her needs, lack of judgement and reasoning skills, and behavioral and physical challenges. Her two housemates also require around the clock care. Not one of these women are able to function on their own; All need help with basic daily activities: use of the bathroom, donning clothes and shoes, meal preparation, shopping for food, getting to workshop or even just going for a walk outside. None of this would be possible without Koinonia Home's Direct Service Professionals (DSPs) that provide their care.

Koinonia Homes, a nonprofit service provider in northeast Ohio, provides vital residential services in homes in Cuyahoga and Summit Counties. They are administered by the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD). Over the past several years, Koinonia has struggled to provide the crucial around the clock care Katie and her housemates require. Their hands are basically tied in the hiring process due to the limited pay they can offer, because of the low rate of reimbursement by Medicaid for these services. Just getting coverage for the bare minimum of services within the home is a daily challenge. This situation will likely not improve without an increase to adequate funding for IDD organizations such as Koinonia.

Ohio's most vulnerable populations should not lack access to these critical services.

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 Homes. 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.

Nancy Nebenzahl

[nancynebenzahl@yahoo.com](mailto:nancynebenzahl@yahoo.com)

226 Echota Lane, Brevard, NC 28712

440-376-3434