



May 7th, 2024

Ohio Senate
Judiciary Committee
HB 328
Chairperson Manning

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

I would first like to thank the committee for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 213 and would like to thank Senator Cirino for bringing forth this important piece of legislation.

As President and CEO of the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA), I offer **OPRA's support for S.B. 213**. OPRA is a state-wide trade association representing nearly 190 private organizations who provide Medicaid funded long-term services and supports to over 32,000 Ohioans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

OPRA members are committed to helping the Ohioans with I/DD they support live the fullest, most independent lives possible. OPRA believes in creating and formalizing tools that help our members achieve this important goal. As a concept, supported decision making has been around for many years. Most OPRA members are familiar the supported decision making process as many members support people under this framework. Supported decision making is an important middle ground when full legal guardianship is not necessary, but people still need some help in managing their affairs. Unfortunately, not every probate court recognizes the value in this framework. This leaves many people, their families, and support teams in a position of either full guardianship or almost no protection from the legal system. In a system supporting people with very complex and diverse needs, either-or approaches often leaves people unsatisfied and with unmet needs. This legislation fills in an important gap by legitimizes and formalizing supported decision making.

We believe S.B. 213 gives Ohioans with I/DD the ability to increase their independence and control over their lives while still offering some as needed oversight by the legal system. OPRA looks forward to collaborating with our members, system peers, and legislative partners to work toward successful implementation of the provisions of this bill.

Thank you for accepting our testimony. For additional questions, I can be reached at pmoore@opra.org or 614-224-6772.

Peter Moore
President and CEO
Ohio Provider Resource Association