

# WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 5-12-25

Name: Christine Blown

Are you representing: Yourself ☒ Organization ☐

Organization (If Applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title: Individual/self-Advocate

Address: 5318 Stonemeadow Ave Apt A

City: Columbus State: OH Zip: 43220

Best Contact Telephone: 614-329-4560 Email: Christi6288@columbus.rr.com

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes ☒ No ☐

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 225

Specific Issue: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you testifying as a: Proponent ☒ Opponent ☐ Interested Party ☒

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes ☒ No ☐

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a brief statement on your position: I am a Individual with a disability who has had life experience being in a sheltered workshop

*Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.*

Giving document to submit on Behalf of me

Attention all members of the Workforce and Higher Education Committee

From: Christine Brown

Title: Individual with I/DD and Self Advocate

Subj: Supporting getting rid of Sub Minimum Wage

To all members of the Workforce and Higher Education Committee I Christine Brown am writing to express my support for removing sub minimum wage in Ohio.

Why does this matter?

This matters because there has been over 10 states that have removed Sub minimum Wage and also **NO ONE TODAY CAN LIVE ON SUBMINIMUM WAGE OR MINIMUM WAGE WITHOUT GOING INTO POVERTY.**

I feel that everyone should be paid equally even if you have a disability or not because everyone has rights under the American with disabilities Act and also if you would like to see less people in poverty in Ohio, we need to get this group to be paid at least minimum Wage.

I was in a sheltered workshop in my life, and we only got paid by cents and not even \$1.00 per hour. **Today people are living paycheck to paycheck to pay things and still cannot keep up with it** all so I feel we deserve to be paid whatever anyone else is being paid of the same job. So for example, if a Janitor gets paid \$12.00 an hour a co-worker with a disability should be paid the same hourly rate because if they do not that feels like using their disability against them which can lead to disability discrimination.

I did also leave the sheltered workshop because I was not making enough money to live on and then I went into a program for people with disabilities to be human services assistants. That went good until I was at the top of the pay scale and did not get a raise for three years so during the 2016-2017 I went through LEND which stands for Leadership Education in Neuro-Developmental disabilities and **then landed a job as a Clinical Research Assistant and now get paid \$22.83 a hour and do not require Rental Assistance or food stamps or some other government assistance like I used to which is True Self Determination.**

I hope your support Removing Sub Minimum Wage because we need people to be able to afford stuff

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine Brown". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Christine Brown