To the members of the Community Revitalization Committee:

Thank you for taking the time to listen to the parents/caregivers of some of the most fragile and complex care residents in our state. My husband and I are a pair of those aging parents that care for our non-verbal, non-ambulatory, adult daughter. She has many chronic medical conditions resulting from two genetic mutations, was not supposed to live beyond 18 months, and is the only documented person with these mutations in the world according to Cincinnati CHMC Genetics. She is dependent upon lifts for all transfers and needs help with all tasks of daily living.

My husband and I (both in our early 70s) take care of our daughter 24/7 in our standard 4 bedroom, 2 story home. We have converted our family room to her "suite" using waiver funds. We do have a Home Health Aide for about 20 hrs/week who helps with feeding, bathing, stocking supplies, laundry, etc. While our daughter currently has everything she needs, she clearly is an island in the community. If House Bill 585 passes, it may provide more options for my daughter's care after we are gone. We are working on that plan now. We may be able to find a housing option that allows her to interact with other people with disabilities, share services/resources, and maybe no longer be that island.

Please consider passing House Bill 585 and give more flexibility to the people planning for our children's future. Thank you!

Karen Forand – mom and guardian
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Retired Board Member of Partnership For Housing (Butler County)
Topic: House Bill 585
Testimony: written
Testifying as a proponent