To the Honorable Members of the Community Revitalization Committee
Ohio House of Representatives

Thank you for this opportunity to write in support of House Bill 585. I am the mother of a 33-year-old autistic daughter with intellectual disability who has many talents that she shares with the community, but who will never be able to live independently. However, where she lives, and where she will live when we are no longer here to support her are critical to her well-being. This is true of every person, with or without a developmental disability (DD), but for those with DD and their families, it is an exceptionally daunting challenge to find an affordable home that meets their needs.

We are fortunate in Ohio to have a Department of Developmental Disabilities that has been forward-thinking in the way they provide services to more than 100,000 Ohioans. The Department's Community Capital Assistance Funds (CCA) have been used to develop affordable housing options for people with DD, especially those leaving institutional care or on a waiting list because their need is urgent. In the current environment of extreme shortage of affordable housing across the board, this assistance to people with DD can be life-changing.

Over the years that the CCA Program has been in existence, technology has evolved. So have housing options and community support options. The current iteration of the CCA does not take full advantage of these advances. Expanding the continuum of housing options would provide more flexibility to incorporate remote support technologies, in keeping with Ohio's Technology First designation. Tiny houses and accessory dwelling units have been successful options for affordable housing in other communities and are uniquely suited to best meet the needs of some people with DD.

It is an especially important feature of HB 585 that it will expand opportunities and services with no new money. The current funds can be more efficiently used to create options that genuinely fit the needs of people with DD, and those funds can be used in combination with monies from other sources whose end-goals are aligned.

Knowing the need to plan far ahead, we began our housing odyssey over 20 years ago following a presentation by the Wisconsin-based, family-driven nonprofit Movin' Out. Over the years we met many knowledgeable, talented and dedicated individuals across southwest Ohio from multiple disciplines, in County Boards of DD, housing networks, community development corporations, private development corporations, service provider agencies, and many others, who faced barriers to working together created by their division into funding silos. HB 585 would encourage more collaboration and cooperation rather than redundancy in the development of housing options for people with DD using CCA funds. For these reasons, **I strongly support HB 585 and the cost-neutral improvements it would bring to the Department of Developmental Disabilities CCA program.**

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