Dear Chairman Click and other Members of the Committee,

As a parent of person receiving services from the County Board of Developmental Disabilities, I wholeheartedly support HB 585. The proposed changes to the Community Capital Assistance Program will provide additional broader housing options to my son and others with developmental disabilities to have access to safe, affordable, accessible housing which promotes full engagement with their community.

I have an adult son on the autism spectrum; I also grew up in the 60's with an autistic brother. It was a time of misconceptions and stigma ideas of autism. They are each individual along with their personalities. My parents were founding members of the Autism Society of Cincinnati in 1970. My mom was a pioneer for many families. The ultimate vision was housing for individuals with disabilities that would give them quality of life, including safety and mostly their happiness. They love to be part of their community. Many do volunteer work and enjoy activities that are appropriate for them. They are our loved ones and an important part of society.

Thank you for your time and thank you for allowing me to share my story.

Respectfully,

Gretchen Heinrich

6473 Zoellners Place

Fairfield Township, Ohio

45011