ElevateDD

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Ohio House
Community Revitalization Committee
House Bill 585
Proponent Testimony
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March 17, 2026

Chair Click, Vice Chair Mullins, Ranking Member Brewer, and members of the House Community Revitalization Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 585.

My name is Troy Hunter, and I serve as the President & CEO of ElevateDD, a statewide advocacy organization that works alongside people with developmental disabilities and their families. Through our network and community partnerships, we regularly hear from people and families navigating Ohio's systems of care, including the challenge of finding safe, affordable, and accessible housing.

Access to safe, affordable, and accessible housing remains a significant challenge for many Ohioans with developmental disabilities. Many individuals rely on Supplemental Security Income (SSI), which provides just under $1,000 per month in 2026, making it extremely difficult to afford market-rate housing.[1] At the same time, Ohio faces a shortage of approximately 202,000 affordable housing units for very low-income households.[2]

Because of these barriers, many people with developmental disabilities have limited options for independent living. Data from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities shows that about 58.3% of individuals receiving waiver services live with family members today, even though many express interest in living more independently in their communities.[3]

The Community Capital Assistance (CCA) program has been an important tool in addressing this need. Since the early 1990s, the program has helped develop more than 2,000 homes and renovate over 2,400 homes across Ohio to increase accessible, community-based housing.[3] However, current rules limit the types of housing that can be developed.

House Bill 585 modernizes the program by allowing CCA funds to support a broader range of housing models and permitting those funds to be combined with other financing sources when appropriate. These changes will allow communities to better leverage existing resources and expand housing options while maintaining oversight and ensuring people have meaningful input in where they live.

Importantly, this bill does not request additional funding. Instead, it strengthens Ohio's ability to use existing resources more effectively to address housing needs.

Access to housing is closely tied to health, stability, and community inclusion. Expanding flexible housing options also supports the goals of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the *Olmstead* decision, which affirm the right of people with disabilities to live in integrated community settings.[4]

Housing is more than a roof over someone's head, it is a key social determinant of health, stability, and opportunity. When people with developmental disabilities have access to safe, accessible housing in their communities, they are better able to maintain employment, build relationships, and live full and meaningful lives.[5]

House Bill 585 is a thoughtful step toward expanding housing opportunities and strengthening Ohio's commitment to community living.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions.

References

1. Social Security Administration. (2026). *Supplemental Security Income Federal Payment Amounts*.
2. Ohio Housing Finance Agency. (2026). *Ohio Housing Needs Assessment – Executive Summary*.
3. Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. (2025). *Housing Data and Community Capital Assistance Program Overview*.
4. *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581 (1999); Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §12101 et seq.
5. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Social Determinants of Health: Neighborhood and Built Environment*.