PROPONENT TESTIMONY

Ohio House Community Revitalization Committee
Regarding HB 585 — Housing for Ohioans with Disabilities Receiving Supported Living Services

March 17, 2026

Chairman Click, Vice Chair Mullins, Ranking Member Brewer, and members of the House Community Revitalization Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Tracy Reiss, and I strongly support House Bill 585.

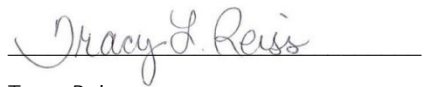
Ohioans with developmental disabilities who receive supported living services deserve the same opportunity as every other Ohioan: the ability to live in their own home, in their own community. Supported living is a model that works. It empowers individuals to direct their own services, make meaningful choices about their daily lives, and build real connections in the communities where they live. But for supported living to succeed, people need stable, accessible housing — and right now, our system too often falls short.

Ohio's Community Capital Assistance Program exists precisely to help address this gap, providing funds for county boards of developmental disabilities to acquire safe, community-based homes. Yet the pathway for county boards to access these funds has been inconsistent and unreliable. Opportunities to acquire the right home at the right time are lost when the process is unclear. House Bill 585 solves this problem directly. By requiring the Director of Developmental Disabilities to establish a clear, standardized process for making community capital assistance funds available, this bill gives county boards the certainty and structure they need to invest in housing for the individuals they serve.

The need is urgent. Ohio's housing market has made it increasingly difficult for individuals with developmental disabilities to find affordable, accessible options. Many are on lengthy waiting lists, living in settings that do not meet their needs, or relying entirely on aging family members for housing. Every day without a workable process is a day someone with a developmental disability is waiting for a home they deserve. House Bill 585 ensures the infrastructure is in place so that when a housing opportunity arises, county boards can act.

Every Ohioan deserves a place to call home. For individuals receiving supported living services, that home is not just a matter of comfort — it is the foundation for independence, dignity, and full participation in community life. This is a straightforward, commonsense step that will make a real difference in people's lives. I ask you to vote YES on this important, life-changing bill. Ohio's individuals with developmental disabilities — and the families and communities who support them — are counting on you. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,



Tracy Reiss