To the Honorable Members of the Community Revitalization Committee

Ohio House of Representatives

I write in strong support of House Bill 585, which would amend R.C. 5123.351 to allow the Department of Developmental Disabilities to adopt rules expanding the use of Community Capital Assistance (CCA) funds.

Ohio faces a severe shortage of affordable housing. This crisis disproportionately affects Ohioans with developmental disabilities: of roughly 108,000 individuals served, 74% live with family caregivers and many caregivers are aging.

Current Administrative Code Rule 5123-1-03 restricts eligible housing to single-family homes, duplexes, and quadplexes (no more than four residents per site) and prohibits multiple structures on a single or adjoining site. Those constraints prevent County Boards from using CCA funds to create a broader, integrated range of accessible housing options that reflect the diverse needs and preferences of people with developmental disabilities.

House Bill 585 would require rules that permit a wider mix of housing types and allow blending CCA funds with other affordable-housing resources. That flexibility would enable designated units within larger affordable developments, encourage partnerships and creative funding strategies, and promote community integration—allowing individuals with developmental disabilities to live in mixed-income, mixed-age settings with better access to amenities and reduced transportation barriers.

DODD's current interpretation of federal CMS setting requirements and Ohio Medicaid policy, reflected in OAC 5123-1-03, is aggressively restrictive. Federal guidance states a setting must not "have the effect of isolating individuals from the broader community." By prohibiting adjoining sites and multiple structures, the current CCA rules effectively isolate individuals rather than integrate them. Please support HB 585 to modernize these rules, permit development at scale, and allow CCA funds to be blended with other sources so Ohio can expand accessible, community-based housing for people with developmental disabilities.

Deborah Bokmuller

Mother of disabled 21 year old & Board Member, Medina County Board of Development