



## Belmont-Harrison-Noble County Boards of Developmental Disabilities

Chairman Click, Vice Chair Mullins, Ranking Member Brewer and members of the House Community Revitalization Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for House Bill 585 concerning the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities' Community Capital Assistance Funds.

My name is Gloria Llewellyn, and I am the Superintendent/CEO of the Belmont, Harrison, and Noble County Boards of Developmental Disabilities. I appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of House Bill 585.

Across the three counties I serve, our boards work to ensure that people with developmental disabilities have access to safe, affordable, and person-centered housing. Housing is essential. Without appropriate housing options, people cannot fully benefit from services, maintain stability, or make meaningful choices about their lives.

House Bill 585 updates Ohio Revised Code 5123.351 by clarifying how community capital assistance funds may be used. These updates give county boards the flexibility needed to respond to today's housing challenges while maintaining accountability and oversight.

The bill recognizes that housing needs and housing markets have changed. By allowing funds to be used for a wider range of housing options such as single-family homes, duplexes, condominiums, accessory dwelling units, and other innovative models, county boards can better address local realities, especially in rural areas where housing options are limited. The bill also allows funds to be combined with other financing sources when appropriate, which is critical in today's housing environment. In addition, it protects public investment by allowing county boards to secure property interests when public funds are used.

The most important thing to note is that H.B. 585 reinforces person-centered choice by ensuring that people with disabilities have a meaningful role in selecting the type of housing in which they live. This aligns with the values of independence, dignity, and self-determination that guide Ohio's developmental disabilities system.

I am responsible for three very different counties and can state, with confidence, that one-size-fits-all housing solutions do not work. H.B. 585 provides a consistent statewide framework while allowing flexibility at the local level. It does not require new spending or weaken oversight. It simply allows existing funds to be used more effectively.

H.B. 585 is a practical, forward-looking bill that strengthens Ohio's ability to support people with developmental disabilities in living safe, stable, and meaningful lives in their communities. On behalf of the Belmont, Harrison, and Noble County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, I strongly urge your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gloria Llewellyn", written in a cursive style.

Gloria Llewellyn

Superintendent/CEO

Belmont-Harrison-Noble County Boards of Developmental Disabilities

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