**Proponent Testimony on House Bill 585**
Carmen Shelton
OACB Policy Advisory Committee member
March 17, 2026

Chairman Click, Vice Chair Mullins, Ranking Member Brewer and members of the House Revitalization Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 585 that will increase funding for Community Capital Assistance Funds. This will expand housing options for individuals with developmental disabilities receiving supported living services.

My name is Carmen Shelton and I am a member of the Policy Advisory Committee for the Ohio Association of County Boards. The Policy Committee provides feedback to the Association on public policy that promotes independence and inclusion for people with developmental disabilities.

Independence is a fundamental right for individuals with developmental disabilities. In a 2025 study by Empower Me Living LLC, a real estate developer, 77,000 Ohioans with developmental disabilities live with aging caregivers. Expanding how CCA funding can be used is critical to increasing housing options for individuals with developmental disabilities so they can live their best life.

I have lived independently in an apartment complex for almost 25 years and living independently has provided many opportunities for me that at one time I didn't think I would have. Living independently has made me resilient, increased my faith, and my confidence.I am able to be involved in my church, work remotely, be involved in my community by volunteering to help the homeless and advocate for policies that promote independence and inclusion. I can make choices and decisions throughout my day that allow me to live my best life.

Housing opportunities like this are exactly what Community Capital Assistance Funds can help create by allowing county boards to acquire or develop homes where people with developmental disabilities can live with the supports they need.

I ask this committee to support House Bill 585 to expand housing options for individuals with developmental disabilities. I am available to take questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen Shelton