

Written Testimony on HB96
Submitted by: Jennifer Byerley
Twinsburg, Ohio
March 31, 2025

Dear Members of the Ohio General Assembly,

My name is Jennifer Byerley, and I am 45 years old. I moved to Ohio 14 years ago from Texas. I have a disability.

Before I came to Ohio, my life was very different. In Texas, I didn't have a job. I was told I couldn't do anything on my own. I didn't have access to support, and I had no county board system to look out for me. The family I lived with made me clean their house and never took me out. I felt stuck and unseen.

When I moved to Ohio, everything changed. I began receiving support from Summit DD and was put on the Individual Options (IO) Medicaid Waiver. Because of this, I now live in my own apartment with help, and I have a job at Dollar Tree where I earn minimum wage. I also work as a coach and attend a day program that helps me stay social and enjoy life. The waiver pays for my transportation so I can get to where I need to go.

Thanks to the waiver, I don't have to live in a group home where I might never go out or have a chance to be independent. I have a full, meaningful life. I feel proud of who I am, and I get to live my dreams.

Please protect Medicaid and Medicaid waivers in the state budget. These supports are essential for people like me and my friends.

Thank you for your time and for listening to my voice.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Byerley
Twinsburg, Ohio

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