



**Testimony Before the Ohio House Health Committee
House Bill 96**

John Hannah - February 26, 2025

Good morning, Chairwoman Schmidt, Vice-Chair Deeter, Ranking Member Somani, and committee members.

Thank you for letting me speak to you today.

My name is John Hannah. I live and work in Champaign County. I have worked as a Consumer Advocate for CRSI for 20 years. I serve on the Boards of The Arc of Ohio, Ohio Self Determination Association, and People First of Ohio. I started school before there was special education and one of the only options for services was Orient Developmental Center.

I am here today as a member of Ohio's DD Budget Coalition representing People First of Ohio. The Coalition works together like fingers and a hand – we are each individual, like fingers, but part of the same whole, like the hand.

I want to thank Governor DeWine for:

- Keeping the rate increases from the last budget.
- Adding language about Supported Decision Making.
- Keeping money for Technology First and Employment First. I use technology every day to help me do my job.

I'm testifying for DSPs direct support professionals to get more money. There are children that works at McDonald's and Dunkin' Donuts that make more money than a direct support person does taking care of the most fragile people. Just like you, DSPs give a service to the community.

People First would like to see more money for DSPs. We want to see a rate increase for DSPs in waivers. We want to see regular rate increase so pay can go up and we won't have a workforce crisis again.

We need to make sure people with disabilities always get the support they need.

Thank you for letting me speak to you today. I'm happy to answer any questions after the panel is done.