



Proponent Testimony for House Bill 32
House Health Committee

Testimony of Kari Jones, President & CEO, ElevateDD

April 7, 2025

Chair Schmidt, Vice Chair Deeter, Ranking Member Somani, and Members of the Health Committee,

My name is Kari Jones, and I am the President & CEO of ElevateDD, a statewide advocacy platform dedicated to increasing authentic inclusion for people with developmental disabilities by amplifying voices, supporting families, illuminating opportunities, and launching innovative solutions.

I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony in support of House Bill 32, which seeks to designate July as "Celebrating Disabilities Month" in our state. This initiative aligns seamlessly with the mission of ElevateDD, as it serves as a commitment to fostering an environment where people with disabilities are recognized for their contributions and potential. This designation will create an opportunity to further educate our communities about the importance of inclusion, the gaps that still exist, and the collective steps we can take to create a more equitable society.

By passing House Bill 32, Ohio will take a significant step toward acknowledging and celebrating the diverse abilities of all its citizens. This month-long recognition will not only honor the achievements of people with disabilities but also encourage ongoing dialogue and action toward removing barriers and promoting inclusivity in every facet of our communities.

I encourage the committee to support House Bill 32 and demonstrate Ohio's dedication to embracing and uplifting every member of our society.

Thank you for your leadership on these issues, and for your commitment to Ohio's developmental disabilities community.

Kari Jones
President & CEO
ElevateDD

