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Testimony for Ohio House Bill 581

Chair Gross, Vice Chair Barhorst, Ranking Member Baker, and members of the House Medicaid Committee:

My name is **Justin Blumhorst**, and I serve as the **Chief Innovation Officer at Capabilities, LLC**. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of **House Bill 581**.

At Capabilities, our mission is centered on a simple but powerful belief: every individual, regardless of their disability, deserves the opportunity to find meaningful, sustainable employment within their community. We work daily to bridge the gap between talented individuals seeking work and employers looking for dedicated team members.

The Impact of House Bill 581

While our team works tirelessly to facilitate these connections, we often encounter systemic barriers that limit what is possible for the people we serve. House Bill 581 represents a critical step forward in dismantling those barriers.

By streamlining Medicaid processes and enhancing support structures, this bill will:

- **Increase Workforce Participation:** Empower more Ohioans with disabilities to enter the workforce without the fear of losing essential healthcare coverage.
- **Foster Independence:** Provide the necessary framework for individuals to transition from subsidized support to self-sufficiency through community-integrated employment.
- **Strengthen the Economy:** Allow Ohio businesses to tap into an underutilized, highly motivated talent pool, addressing labor shortages and fostering inclusive workplace cultures.

Innovation in Employment

In my role as Chief Innovation Officer, I see firsthand how technology and modern support strategies can transform lives. However, innovation requires a legislative environment that is equally forward-thinking. HB 581 provides the flexibility and resources needed to modernize how we deliver services, ensuring that Ohio remains a leader in disability employment services.

Conclusion

This bill is more than just a policy change; it is an investment in the dignity and potential of our fellow citizens. By supporting House Bill 581, this committee is championing inclusion, empowering the workforce, and improving the lives of thousands of Ohioans.

I urge you to support the passage of House Bill 581. Thank you for your time and for your commitment to the people of Ohio. I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have.

Respectfully Submitted,

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