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Committees:

**Vice Chair: Development
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Transportation**

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Teska, Ranking Member Brennan, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 193.

This legislation focuses on strengthening and modernizing Ohio's ABLE program—an essential tool that supports individuals living with disabilities in achieving greater financial independence and long-term security. House Bill 193 proposes targeted updates to sections 113.51, 113.53, and 113.56 of the Ohio Revised Code. These revisions are technical in nature but meaningful in practice. They bring our statutes in line with recent federal guidance, clarify administrative authority, and improve the efficiency of the program's management.

But this bill goes beyond routine updates. House Bill 193 includes an appropriation aimed at expanding outreach efforts and improving technological infrastructure within the ABLE system. Why is that important? Because despite the transformative potential of ABLE accounts, thousands of eligible Ohioans still don't know they exist.

We have an obligation not only to maintain this program, but to grow its impact—especially for underserved or rural populations who may face barriers to participation. The ABLE program empowers individuals to save for qualified expenses such as transportation, housing, health care, and education—all without risking eligibility for critical public benefits like Medicaid or SSI. For families, this brings peace of mind. For the individual, it brings autonomy. For the state, it brings long-term savings through reduced reliance on public services.

One of the best indicators of a society's strength is how it treats its most vulnerable citizens. House Bill 193 reaffirms Ohio's commitment to those living with disabilities—not just through words, but through a practical and fiscally responsible investment in their future.

By supporting this bill, we send a message that Ohio is serious about inclusion, opportunity, and dignity. I urge the committee to support this legislation, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.