



House Bill 48 Proponent Testimony
Kari Jones
Before the Ohio House Ways and Means Committee
Representative Bill Roemer, Chair
March 19, 2025

Chairman Roemer, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Troy, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

My name is Kari Jones, and I am the President & CEO of ElevateDD, a statewide advocacy organization that, through our various programs and communities, serves over 5,000 people with developmental disabilities and their families throughout Ohio. I am also the proud sibling to a brother with Down syndrome and have supported him in the establishment of his STABLE Account. I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony as a proponent of House Bill 48.

ElevateDD is committed to increasing authentic inclusion for people with developmental disabilities. We support the efforts to raise the deduction limit for joint filers. We believe that encouraging savings of financial resources for people with developmental disabilities and their families empowers them to live to their fullest potential and aligns with ElevateDD's vision: authentic inclusion in all of life's opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.

As advocates in the field of developmental disabilities, we work diligently to educate Ohio families on opportunities in which they can maximize existing resources made available to them. We believe raising the deduction limit for those filing jointly will further enhance those existing opportunities, incentivizing families to save money for their loved ones' future use. Saving for a life-enriching future, for things like housing, transportation, living expenses, assistive technology, and so many other things associated with living independently in the community, STABLE Accounts are an incredible resource.

Today, nearly 46,000 STABLE Account holders have leveraged this resource to increase financial security that will pay dividends for their loved one's future. We look forward to watching these numbers climb as we continue to educate families on the advantages of this type of account, ultimately helping people with developmental disabilities become more financially independent while experiencing authentic community inclusion as they age.

Chair Roemer and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony as a proponent on House Bill 48.

