

HB 96 Interested Party Testimony  
**[Gabryel Tobias Krabis]**  
Ohio Senate Medicaid Committee  
Chair Mark Romanchuk  
May 15, 2025

Chairman Romanchuk, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the Senate Medicaid Committee, my name is **[Gabryel Tobias Krabis. I'm 22 years old, I'm a Pre Operational Transgender Man and I was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio. At the age of 15, after some legal issues within my great uncle's household between him and me, I moved in with my great aunt in Springboro, Ohio. I graduated from Springboro High School in the class of 2021.]**. I am submitting this testimony as an interested party on HB 96.

**[Supported decision-making is important to me because guardianship has taken away my privileges as well as my civil rights. I have made my fair share of mistakes in my lifetime, especially with the police and the law, and falling for scammers. But I am happy to say that hasn't happened for the past few years now, and I haven't been in trouble with the law since. I still do have trouble with daily living skills, and I usually get so overwhelmed, but that's because of how stressed out I am with how my life has turned into what feels like a nightmare. Everything that I ever wanted for myself after I graduated high school was no longer a reality, and I have lost so much just within the past couple of years, from losing my mother to losing my civil rights to not being able to get into a good college so I can earn a degree to get into a good-paying career, to make enough money to thrive in life, to losing hope and trusting certain people when they tell me that there is a way out of guardianship if I try to do better with my daily living skills, etc. Guardianship has taken so much from just average people living a day-to-day life, from having a final say in anything about their lives to taking their civil rights away and their rights under the U.S. Constitution, as well as individuals' relationships with people, whether it may be friendships or romantic relationships. It's not just that; it's also about how it makes a person feel about themselves, like for me as an example, and how I truly feel that state guardianship makes me feel like I'm just a piece of property and I'm not even considered a human being because I have zero say in anything. Other individuals with disabilities may also feel the same way or even similar to how I feel. I feel that state guardianship is too restrictive for individuals with disabilities, and we need to stand up and make the pledge to end state guardianship and also to make sure that state guardianship gets outlawed in the state of Ohio. As every human being, regardless of if they have a disability or not, we are still human beings, and as long as we have a voice or another form of communication to communicate with people and we can express what we want for each and every one of our lives, then we should have the right to have a say in what we want for ourselves in our lives. No one else should have the right or legal authority to**

treat us like children and not legal adults and tell other people what they want for our lives instead of what we really want. To end on that note, we are all human beings and average people just living with a handicap we were born with, which we couldn't help—the fact that was the way we were born into this world, and that's the way we have to live out the rest of our lives. Guardianship is not helping those people make their lives any better than it is already, to have to know and deal with the fact that this is how they're going to have to live out the rest of their days upon this earth, and to know that they will have to listen to someone who has full legal authority over how their lives will play out until the day they die. This is very unconstitutional. No person within the United States of America or even in Ohio should have to feel as though they are a piece of government property and they don't have a say in anything. State guardianship needs to be put to a complete halt. No person deserves to go through any of the life struggles that come with state guardianship. We, as Ohioans, can do better.]

[ENDING SENTENCE:] Chair Romanchuk and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony as an interested party on HB 96.