

**As Introduced**

**136th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2025-2026**

**H. C. R. No. 44**

**Representatives Rader, Odioso**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Piccolantonio, Somani, Miller, J., Upchurch, Bryant  
Bailey, Sims, Lett, Synenberg, Brennan, Russo, Cockley**

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**A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

To encourage all county boards of developmental 1  
disabilities in Ohio to adopt an advisory board 2  
composed of self-advocates with developmental 3  
disabilities. 4

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
OHIO (THE SENATE CONCURRING):**

WHEREAS, According to the Arc of the United States and the 5  
Institute on Community Integration, self-advocacy is a civil and 6  
human rights movement led by people with intellectual and 7  
developmental disabilities to exercise their rights as citizens 8  
by communicating for and representing themselves, with supports 9  
in doing so, as necessary; and 10

WHEREAS, Many supporters of the self-advocate movement 11  
endorse a "nothing about us without us" message to affirm that 12  
people with disabilities should be included in all spaces where 13  
decisions about people with disabilities are made, including in 14  
the public policy decisions that affect them; and 15

WHEREAS, In November 2023, the Cuyahoga County Board of 16  
Developmental Disabilities created an advisory group called the 17  
Leadership Council; and 18

WHEREAS, The Leadership Council's mission is to modify and 19  
improve ease of access to services, facilities, and programs 20  
being provided by the county; and 21

WHEREAS, The Leadership Council has adopted the motto of 22  
"If it's for us, bring it before us"; and 23

WHEREAS, The Leadership Council is comprised of five to 24  
seven members, all of whom have a developmental disability and 25  
are served by the County Board; and 26

WHEREAS, The Leadership Council promotes self-advocacy and 27  
includes elected leadership positions for people with 28  
developmental disabilities, including the ability to serve as 29  
the Chair, Vice Chair, or Secretary of the Council; and 30

WHEREAS, The Leadership Council establishes its own bylaws 31  
regarding how it governs itself and engages with the County 32  
Board; and 33

WHEREAS, The Leadership Council has worked on disability 34  
inclusion curriculum and provided feedback on services, 35  
technologies, and advocacy events administered by the county to 36  
improve their quality; and 37

WHEREAS, The Leadership Council also provides feedback to 38  
external community organizations, such as the local board of 39  
elections, regarding the disability perspective on the 40  
organizations' services and processes; and 41

WHEREAS, The Leadership Council has worked directly with 42  
Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities staff, 43  
including a designated Americans with Disabilities Act 44  
coordinator, to further improve accessibility to its properties 45  
and programs; and 46

WHEREAS, The Leadership Council provides an important 47  
perspective that the County Board may otherwise have not 48

considered; and 49

WHEREAS, The accessibility of County Board projects has 50  
improved since the creation of the Leadership Council; and 51

WHEREAS, The Leadership Council has been a positive 52  
addition to the community and provided people with developmental 53  
disabilities an opportunity to directly engage with policies 54  
that impact them; and 55

WHEREAS, Ability should not be a barrier to participation 56  
in a self-advocacy board and boards should include participants 57  
who use an advocate or caretaker; and 58

WHEREAS, Communities across Ohio can look to the Leadership 59  
Council at the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental 60  
Disabilities for guidance on how to include people with 61  
developmental disabilities in leadership and promote self- 62  
advocacy; now therefore be it 63

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 136th General 64  
Assembly of the State of Ohio, encourage all county boards of 65  
developmental disabilities to adopt an advisory board composed 66  
of self-advocates with developmental disabilities to provide 67  
feedback on county board projects and initiatives; and be it 68  
further 69

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 70  
transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the 71  
leadership of each county board of developmental disabilities 72  
and the news media of Ohio. 73