



Written Testimony on Senate Bill 144

Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee

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Chairman Coley, Vice Chair Uecker, Ranking Member Schiavoni, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill 144.

The Cleveland Sight Center (CSC) has served the needs of Northeast Ohio residents that are blind or have low vision for over a century. One of three remaining sight centers in the state, CSC offers low vision screenings, education and rehabilitative services, assistive technologies, counseling and recreation opportunities for individuals that are blind or have low vision. Our goal is to empower those who are blind or have low vision to achieve independence.

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) is our partner in providing training and guidance to individuals we serve. We appreciate the leadership of Director Miller and his support for this legislation to create the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Council, which would replace three other advisory bodies.

The duties of these advisory bodies are extremely important to the individuals that are impacted by their decisions. Their role in advising OOD on the process of determining eligibility for vocational rehabilitation services and reviewing the programs' impact on the disability community affects Ohio's most vulnerable individuals. We believe that streamlining their focus into one council will result in a more wholistic approach for how our state serves individuals with disabilities.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important issue. We respectfully ask for your support of S.B. 144.