November 5, 2019

Ohio House Health Committee

Proponent Testimony HB 188

Prohibit blindness from denying or limiting care of minors.

Submitted by: Andra Stover.

Chair Lipps, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Boyd, and Members of the Ohio House Health Committee, I am A 36 year old blind individual who plans on having children of my own someday. Recently, my best friend had twins. Her twins will almost be four months old in the middle of November 2019. Needless to say, I am considered an aunt to them and have baby sat for my friend on many occasions as well as helped while her husband is at work. The love for my niece and nephew grows each week I see them. Many tasks go into taking care of twins; from changing to feeding and playing with them. One does not need sight to take care babies and or children. Allow me to give a few examples. If I need to know how much the baby has drank, I simply shake the bottle. Changing a baby is done all by feel. When the baby grows older and starts to walk, I use my ears to listen where they are and what they are doing. In conclusion, I would like to end by stating that even though I am not yet a mother, I love my niece and nephew. I do not want to imagine how I would feel if my new borne were to be taken on the only fact I am blind. Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony.

Sincerely,

Andra Stover

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