Chairman Dolan Vice Chair Burke, Ranking Minority Member Vernon Sykes, and member of the committee. Thank you for the Opportunity to Testify Today. My name is Christine Brown I work at OSU Wexner Medical Center as a clinical research assistant. I like working to be part of the community and show that I am contributing.

Transportation is important to me because I rely on transportation to get to my job and in the community. People with disabilities like myself cannot drive and need assistance getting around. I also go to the mall, bank, grocery store and many more places in the community. I would not be able to do it without transportation.

Right Now, Non-Medical transportation budgets are designed going from you house to the day program or your house to work but the services are not designed going to jobs in the Evening. I know people that have two jobs and my friend can’t find transportation to her 2nd job. If we don’t get this fixed now, there will be a lot of people that will be stuck at home and not be able to work and pay into Taxes. This is not the way Ohio wants to go and the Federal Centers of Medicare and Medicaid services could come into Ohio and get us in trouble if people with developmental disabilities can’t get to places in the community.

When the budget was new, I was excited about changes for transportation for people I work with and myself. But it changed and now they talked about creating a committee, even though a committee already studied this for the last two years. We are asking for the workgroup to be Eliminated from the budget because this will cause delays and lack of improvements to get to work in the community and be able to work and pay into Taxes. **Ohio lives on People paying into Taxes**.Please don’t let this happen. People like me, depends on transportation for everywhere I go, Does that make sense to you?

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