Senate Finance Committee

By Marci Straughter

5/28/19

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 Marci Straughter and I work at Arc industries East here in Franklin County which is a sheltered workshop as a human services assistant. I like doing my job because I like helping people and be part of the community

Non-Transportation is important to me because I rely to get to my Job. People with disabilities like myself cannot drive and need assistance getting around. I would not be able to do it without Non-Medical Transportation. Right Now Non-Medical Transportation budgets are designed going from your house to the day program or your house to work. It is made for having one job or one day programs. But the Services are not designed going to 2 jobs. **I have a second job** at Ohio At home and it is a care providing agency and **my budget does not allow me to take Non-Medical to it.** If we don’t get this Non-Medical Transportation Fixed Now, there will be a lot of people that could be stuck at home and not be able to work and pay into Taxes which I would like to continue to do**. It would cost 3x more money having people be stuck and home instead of going out in the community and working**

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 Elimated from the budget because this will cause delays and lack of improvements to get to work in the community. Please don’t let this happen. People like me, depends on transportation for everywhere I go, Does that make sense to you?

Please don’t let this happen. Please go with the original plan

Thank you

Sincerely,

Marci Straughter