

## HB 465 Lauren's Law Testimony

Hearing April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### Interested Party Testimony

To Families and Aging Committee thank you for opportunity to testify on HB465 Laurens Law. My name is Alicia Hopkins. I am an advocate and person served by the developmental disabilities system. I want to share my thoughts on HB 465. I firmly believe that cameras are a great idea in intermediate care facilities and nursing homes and anywhere that care is given to people with disabilities. I also want to take the time to say that cameras alone won't fix the injustices that people like myself and Lauren have endured by the hands of abusive caregivers in both home and community based service settings.

This law is grate but it needs amendments that actually address real issues here. Ohio legislators must assure that Ohioans with disabilities get quality care. We need to assure people those working in the field are qualified to do so. We need a measure that assures us that state agencies have up to date abuser Registries. I also propose that we have one statewide abuse registry so workers can't fail people with developmental disabilities then go work with the elderly or vice versa.

Lauren's Law needs a measure that offers accountability to her situation especially around abuse and harm. It is an injustice to Lauren and to other people with disabilities to have to constantly weed through the red tape in reporting abuse to get accountability. The Major Unusual Incident Reporting System also known as MUI/UI under Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities System needs a gross overhaul.

In my own personal situation I have found you can have all the video evidence you want and still not have abuse substantiated and that is a problem. I propose additional measures be added to this bill to ask Legislators create a statewide task force that overhauls the MUI/UI reporting system for individuals served both in institutions and in the community. This Is a real protections and advocacy issue that needs addressed by people with disabilities, families of people with disabilities, providers, dd council and state legislators and state agencies.

Cameras alone won't do much and more so no agency or institutions should be allowed to charge money outside what is paid by the state to care for individuals. That institution or agency signs off on Ohio ISP has a duty to protect the person they serve so part of protecting people is allowing people with disabilities and families served to implement safe guards for protection so cameras should not come at additional cost to anyone served

regardless of who serves them and should be included as a provided service in service agreement and made available for those involved in the persons team at any time.

Any questions feel free to contact me [audacity2speak@aol.com](mailto:audacity2speak@aol.com)