

## **Proponent Testimony on HB33**

### **House Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services**

Chairwoman Carruthers, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the House Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, thank you for reviewing this testimony on HB33. My name is Rob Festenstein and I am the Executive Director of the Center for Independent Living Options in Cincinnati, Ohio.

I am submitting this testimony to discuss the potential impact of the request for increased funding in the Centers for Independent Living in my community. Our center serves seven counties with the comprehensive services of Centers for Independent Living.

If the funding is increased, our Center will see a direct increase in funding to serve the disability community in our region. We have the potential to expand in the following areas and way:

- **Holding mobile office hours for consumers in underserved communities in our service area such as Batavia, Hamilton, Mt Orab, Georgetown, and West Union**
- **Expand Youth Transition services that promote life skills needed to live as independently as possible in adulthood**
- **Hire an additional staff person to respond the dozens of calls per week we receive from people looking for both accessible, and affordable housing for people with disabilities**

This funding will be vital to the services we offer in our region, and we appreciate your support.

Respectfully,

Rob Festenstein

Executive Director