

Testimony on HB 33
Senate Finance Committee

Chairman Dolan, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Sykes, and esteemed committee members, I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony today.

My name is Fred Major and I originally hail from Euclid, Ohio. I am the youngest of seven boys, before my parents were blessed with a girl and of my six brothers; three of them were developmentally disabled.

I am here as a strong proponent of HB33 and a faithful supporter of the Koinonia organization. They invited me to join them offering testimony advocating for your support in the funding for staffing both ICF as well as Waiver Homes, both of which I am very familiar. For the record I have never met anyone at Koinonia that would give me pause or doubt their commitment to offering the best care possible.

I am very supportive of the budget initiatives outlined by Governor DeWine and Director Hauck for DODD and the budget initiatives outlined by Governor DeWine and Director Miller for Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD).

Our recent Politically Correct Culture has people way too sensitive but at the same time loads my arsenal for common sense. A bank teller today earns \$25.00 an hour, yet we can't afford to offer a livable income to a Care Giver? These are responsible people who require certification but have to live at a poverty level? In other words a person with basic math skills giving attention to a person's income, deposits and withdrawals is worth more than the overseeing, caretaking and dignity of the retarded individual.

Before you start gasping, I grew up surrounded by the word "Retarded" making perfect sense to me as by definition the word means "delayed in development or progress"! I am a Mold Maker in the Tool & Die Industry and in any example of physics, you're either moving forward or you are being slowed or retarded. It's a word, not a label. However, with your approval of this funding you will be assisting in assuring we don't regress into those past tendencies or terminology, but we keep moving forward for every family like mine, all the organizations like Koinonia and so, so many individuals like my brothers who really deserve their caregivers to have this funding!

I Thank You in advance as the budget initiatives for Ohioans with developmental disabilities, guided by the leadership of Director Hauck and Miller, will reinforce and rebuild the services provided by Koinonia Homes. We encourage this committee to further invest additional funds on top of the House-passed budget for DODD and maintain funding for OOD at the House-passed levels. Thank you again, for the opportunity and privilege to bring my concerns before you today.

Frederick V. Major

EuclidCowboy@aol.com

6528 Farweather Drive, Cleveland, Ohio 44130

(216) 267-4978