

SB 213 Proponent Testimony
Jan Dougherty
Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee
Chair Nathan Manning
May 7, 2024

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Jan Dougherty, Guardian of my son. I am submitting this testimony as a proponent of SB 213.

For the past decade, my son has been under my guardianship. Throughout this time, I have witnessed his remarkable growth and development into a remarkable young man, filled with potential and promise.

As time has passed, it has become increasingly evident that my son no longer requires the constraints of guardianship. He has blossomed into a responsible individual, excelling in his work and embracing the challenges of adulthood with grace and determination. While he may still benefit from the support of a caring team that understands his unique needs, he is more than capable of making his own decisions and charting his own path forward.

However the challenge we face lies in the limitations imposed by the Ohio Revised Code, which make it exceedingly difficult to restore his legal competencies once under guardianship. This legal barrier hinders the natural progression towards a more inclusive and supportive decision-making model, trapping individuals like my son in a system that no longer serves their best interest.

The transition from guardianship to a supportive decision-making model has been a profound journey for our family. It has taught us the importance of trust, communication, and collaboration in fostering independence and self-reliance. My son's journey is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the transformative impact of providing individuals with the tools and support they need to thrive.

As a proud parent, advocating for the widespread adoption of supportive decision-making as a compassionate alternative to guardianship My son's story is a testament to the power of empowerment and inclusion, and I urge you to consider the life-changing impact that this approach can have on individuals.

Chair Manning and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony as a proponent on SB213.

Jan Dougherty