

SB 213 Proponent Testimony  
Courtney Hineman  
Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee  
Chair Nathan Manning  
Hearing date: May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Courtney Hineman. I work for the Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities, as their Community Outreach Advocate. I am writing to provide proponent testimony on SB 213.

Senate Bill 213 is important to me because I use Supported Decision Making in my own life.

For example, my dad helps me budget my money and he also helps me with legal things (like social security)

My stepmom helps me when it comes to relationship advice. Like how to speak up for myself if I'm having issues with direct support staff, or how to communicate with a friend.

Also, my support staff or my parents will go to doctor's appointments that way if I have trouble understanding what the doctor is saying they can explain things in a way I can understand. Also, I normally write down questions I want to ask but they might think of questions I didn't even think of asking.

My co-workers Lynn and Jenny help me at work by helping me review my work calendar so I know what is coming up in my schedule so I can communicate the information to staff, and they also help me review my work hours so that my work doesn't affect my benefits.

Also, if I have a speech coming up that I'm giving in the community I will send it to Lynn ahead of time to make sure it is clear and says everything I want to say.

Having this bill passed could benefit other people with disabilities by making more people aware of what Supported Decision Making is and how they can use it in their own lives.

I know for me using supported decision making has helped me feel more confident because I am able to talk through my decision with someone and my parents are still involved in my life, even though I am my own guardian.

Chair Manning and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony as a proponent on SB 213.