

Ohio Senate Finance Committee
Testimony by Shelley Papenfuse
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Good Afternoon Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chairman Coley, Ranking Member Skindell, and members of the Members of the Senate Finance Committee, I am Shelley Papenfuse and I am a person with a significant disability who has lived independently my whole life with the support of my family, friends and today through the help of the Ohio Home Care Waiver and **Independent Providers**. I am here today to express my concern and opposition to a proposed plan to cut the pay of independent providers.

What is not being acknowledged, is that the pay IP's receive is **gross pay** and therefore Independent Providers have to pay their own taxes each year and pay for the full cost of the state's required continuing education classes, Red Cross Recertification and Criminal Background Checks, not to mention the costs they incur for weekly gas and mileage of their vehicle.

Reducing their pay is a betrayal to the Home and Community Based Care system that is being built in Ohio.

I understand that the state's proposal to eliminate IP's in Ohio has been taken out of the budget proposal - for which I am grateful. I only ask that as the state studies their concerns, they let persons with disabilities - the actual consumers who receive services using Independent Providers, be a part of the stakeholder process when considering any changes to the state's Home and Community Based Care system.

I have found IP's to be **THE MOST** reliable, caring and overall more trustworthy to work with on a daily bases compared to **ANY** Home Health Care worker from Home Health Care agencies.

Home Health Care Agencies **STILL** cannot reliably schedule aides to come at the times I need and **DO NOT** stay the number of hours I need.

Independent Providers are free from the constraints agencies impose on their time and are more able to negotiate tasks and schedules that better meet my needs to maintain my Independence as a working, tax-paying Ohioan.

Thank you very much for allowing me to speak,

Shelley Papenfuse