



The Ability Center

March 28, 2022

SENT VIA E-MAIL TO SENATOR MANNING

Re: Letter of Support for SB202

THE ABILITY CENTER

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SYLVANIA, OH 43560
419.885.5733

BRYAN SATELLITE OFFICE

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Dear Chairman Manning, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of The Ability Center of Greater Toledo, please accept this letter of support for SB202. My name is Brittanie Maddox and I am a Disability Rights Advocate at The Ability Center of Greater Toledo. We are a Center for Independent Living serving seven counties in Northwest Ohio. Our mission is to advocate, educate, partner, and provide services that support people with disabilities to thrive within their communities.

Parents with disabilities are a fundamental part of our communities in Ohio and we believe SB202 will provide the necessary recognition of their value and provide protections for people with disabilities who are and want to become parents. We are writing to ask the Senate Judiciary Committee to support this antidiscrimination bill and the language provided therein.

SB202 is a necessary amendment and one that The Ability Center of Greater Toledo is excited to see passed in Ohio. All parents, with or without disabilities, must be evaluated on equitable standards and without discrimination.

People with disabilities can encounter bias and discrimination in custody cases based on stereotypes and antiquated views of disability. When determining custody, visitation, parental rights, etc. a court must do so on a case-by-case basis. Determination of a parent's ability to safely parent should be done without stereotypical assumptions. A person's diagnosis does not determine their ability; therefore, courts must base their decision on facts and objective evidence.

We've enjoyed and appreciated the opportunity to work with Senators Antonio and Hackett on this bill. We strongly urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to support and pass SB202, which will provide antidiscrimination protections for parents with disabilities and places all parents on an equitable basis.

Making independence possible since **1920**.



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Thank you for reviewing my Letter of Support. My contact information is provided below and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any additional questions.

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Sincerely,

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