

Chair Gelser, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak about SB 274. Sponsored by Senator Manning. I was here on the first day of session to talk about this bill with a panel of community members, in support of changing the age of eligibility for Support Service Brokerages from 18 down to 14.

Changing this age would:

- remove barriers to stakeholder decision-making and support positive change.
- open choice and service options for people age 14-17.
- create a smoother and more supported Turning 18 transition period for people with IDD.

Turning 18 is a difficult transition period in most lives and can be considerably more challenging for a young person with a disability. Decisions may have to be made, and action taken on Social Security, Medicaid eligibility, a change in medical providers, high school graduation, college, high school transition programs, and housing. We want to support young people and their families by helping them navigate this process alongside them.

**We are excited to offer the option of our nearly 20 years of experience in this unique service to people as young as 14.**

Thank you for the chance to speak today, I'm happy to answer any questions you might have.