The Ability Center

November 29th, 2025

Ohio Department of Aging on PASSPORT Waiver Amendments

SUBMITTED VIA email: Waiverfeedback@age.ohio.gov

Comments of The Ability Center of Greater Toledo

To the Ohio Department of Aging;

I am writing on behalf of The Ability Center of Greater Toledo to offer comment on the PASSPORT Waiver amendments for the provision of title 42 Sections 441.301 and 441.304.

The Ability Center of Greater Toledo is a Center for Independent Living serving thirteen counties in NW Ohio. Our mission is to work to make our community the most disability friendly in the nation by increasing independence for people with disabilities, discovering true passions, and changing the community's perception of disability. Please accept these comments on behalf of our Center and of our constituents with disabilities in NW Ohio.

As a Center for Independent Living, we recognize our obligation to address the needs of NW Ohio's disability community, especially those barriers that systematically limit the independence of those living in the community. One of the most common barriers reported has been the inaccessibility of homes and the importance of home modifications that allow individuals to adapt their environment to meet their evolving needs. This is why we applaud ODA's decision to increase the cost cap on home modification services under the PASSPORT waiver. As cited in your summary document, the cost of these modifications has increased recently and the increase to $15,000 is a necessary step to combat inflation and allows for a high enough budget that meaningful steps can be taken to make a home accessible. This amendment will allow Ohioans to continue living in the community and provide increased independence for those utilizing the PASSPORT waiver. We are fully supportive of this

amendment and hope that this rationale for increasing cost caps to counter inflation will be implemented in other service categories across the waiver system.

Sincerely,

The Ability Center of Greater Toledo

Jules Patalita

Disability Rights Advocate