



## Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

**John R. Kasich**  
Governor  
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Executive Director

Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired  
Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation  
Division of Disability Determination

### **Ohio Vendors Representative Committee Sunset Review Committee Testimony May 3, 2016**

Chairman Jordan, Vice-Chair Brown and distinguished committee members, my name is Christy Hauck and I am the Business Enterprise Program Manager at Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD). OOD, through our Business Enterprise Program (BEP), is the state licensing agency for the Randolph-Sheppard Act in Ohio. The BEP provides entrepreneurship opportunities for persons who are blind or visually impaired. Under the Randolph-Sheppard Act, federal regulations require a State Committee of Blind Vendors to provide feedback and input regarding the program.

In Ohio this committee operates under the name of The Ohio Vendors Representative Committee (OVRC). OVRC committee members are elected by fellow BEP Operators and represent all BEP Operators in their geographically assigned area of the State. There is no GRF used in the day-to-day operation of BEP, nor the OVRC. This committee is 100% federally funded and mandated.

The work of the OVRC directly benefit the public interest by supporting Ohio's licensed blind operators within the BE program. The committee advises OOD on the policies and practices of the BE program. This committee also allows BE Vendors to address concerns, review administrative rules and offer suggestions related to the BE program. This process allows BE Vendors to be an effective partner in program development.

In closing, we ask that the Ohio Vendor Representatives Committee remain in existence. Not only is the OVRC required by federal regulations but it offers important, diverse feedback which helps OOD better administer the Business Enterprise Program.