



May 16, 2016

People First of Ohio is an organization of people with disabilities who advocate for ourselves. We are self-advocates and want to empower others to do the same. We think people with disabilities should have the right to do what they want with their lives and to live and work and do things in the community, just as people without disabilities.

We support Disability Rights Ohio's (DRO) class action lawsuit against the governor and other state officials. There are thousands of people with developmental and intellectual disabilities who are isolated in facilities throughout the state, and thousands more who do not have the services they need and are at risk of going to a facility. These people do not have the opportunity to choose how they live their lives. They do not have the opportunity to live and work and do things in the community. This is wrong. Although people should be able to live in facilities if they want, they should still be given a choice. DRO's lawsuit is supposed to fix this and we support them.

People First of Ohio Board of Directors

Jim Polutnik

Board President