



**SENATOR STEVE WILSON**  
Ohio's 7th Senate District

**SENATOR KENNY YUKO**  
Ohio's 25th Senate District

**House Aging and Long Term Care Committee  
Senator Steve Wilson and Senator Kenny Yuko  
May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019  
Senate Bill 24**

Good morning Chairman Arndt, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Howse and members of the Aging and Long Term Care Committee. Thank you for allowing Senator Yuko and myself to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 24, which establishes a State Alzheimer's Disease and Dementias Task Force. This bill passed in the Senate with unanimous, bipartisan support.

An estimated 5.7 million Americans—including 220,000 Ohioans—currently live with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. For each person, there are two to three caregivers who also need support. That's nearly one million Ohioans directly impacted by this disease. Some estimates predict these numbers will nearly triple by 2050, making it one of the greatest threats to public health and our state's overburdened health care system.

Nationally, Medicaid costs to care for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias total an estimated \$44 billion – and will rise more than 300 percent (before inflation) by 2050. Currently, Ohio is the only state in the nation without a comprehensive state Alzheimer's plan. We must take action today to ensure Ohio is well equipped to confront the sweeping economic and social impact of this disease.

Alzheimer's is not just an aging issue. Changes happen in the brain prior to symptoms, which make awareness, prevention and risk reduction essential at younger ages. This is a public health crisis that requires all of Ohio's state and local government infrastructures to be prepared. A State Alzheimer's Disease Plan creates the foundation and accountability necessary to tackle this public health crisis. My colleague, Senator Yuko, will now explain the creation and responsibilities of the State Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Task Force.

Senate Bill 24 establishes the Task Force within the Ohio Department of Health. Under the proposed legislation, the Task Force will be charged with developing an official, comprehensive state action plan to address the impact of Alzheimer's and other related dementias. The three focus areas that would be examined are 1) trends in Ohio's Alzheimer's disease and related dementias populations and service needs; 2) existing resources, services, and capacity relating to the care of individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias; and 3) additional relevant policies and strategies that must be addressed. A report will be required to be submitted to the Governor and General Assembly detailing the Task Force's findings and recommendations no later than 18 months after the bill's effective date.

The Task Force would consist of 27 members. SB 24 was amended in committee to add a few more members of relevant organizations to the Task Force, including a designee from the Department of Veterans Affairs. The bill was also amended to change the administrative support of the Task Force by having the Department of Aging serve as chair and the Department of Health serve as vice chair. 18 of the members would be appointed by the Governor. 5 of the members would be designees of each the Director of Health, the Director of Aging, the Medicaid Director, the Director of Veterans Services, and the State Long-term Care Ombudsman. 2 of the members would be appointed by the Senate President, one member from each caucus. 2 members would be appointed by the House Speaker, one member from each caucus.

The Task Force is temporary and will cease to exist after it submits its report to the Governor and General Assembly.

Chairman Arndt and members of the Committee, we appreciate your attention and consideration of this necessary legislation. We would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.