



January 30, 2020

**Representative Tim Ginter**  
Chair Aging and Long-Term Care Committee  
77 S. High St. 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Ginter, Vice Chairman Swearingen, Ranking Member Howse,

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association and the more than 220,000 Ohioans living with Alzheimer's and Dementia, we would like to testify in favor of the intent of House Bill 265.

The Alzheimer's Association services all 88 counties in Ohio through its six chapters. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected, and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. To ensure our ability to ensure care for those impacted, we are extremely focused on the overall dementia workforce. This has been ever-present through our work and support of HB 441, which establishes a training module for incoming first responders during their training.

We believe House Bill 265 complements House Bill 441 and establishes essential steps in enhancing quality care and support for all affected. By requiring employees of long-term care services and support providers to complete initial and ongoing training specific to dementia, including Alzheimer's disease. At the association, we see how trained staff can make a difference in the quality of care, and even impact family caregiver peace of mind.

The Alzheimer's Association has noted the most critical determinant of quality dementia care across all settings is direct care staff. The provider is the key to successful daily living and sets the tone for people with dementia living with dignity as the disease progresses. Highly trained staff are critical when it comes to the quality of care, and the intent of House Bill 265 moves Ohio forward in tackling Alzheimer's and Dementia.

In addition, the Alzheimer's Association would recommend that the committee and legislature consider the following additions as House Bill 265 moves forward.



## **Content of Initial Training**

For covered direct service staff members and covered administrative staff members, the curriculum used for the initial training shall include the following topics:

- Alzheimer's disease and dementia
- Person-centered care;
- Assessment and care planning;
- Activities of daily living; and/or
- Dementia-related behaviors and communication

For administrative staff members, the curriculum used for the initial training shall also cover the following additional topics:

- Medical management information education and support;
- Staffing;
- Supportive and therapeutic environments;
- Transitions and coordination of services.

The Alzheimer's Association recommends the Ohio Department of Aging shall identify and designate standardized training including online training that meet the requirements of this section and shall also establish a process whereby other non-standardized training programs will be determined to meet the requirements for dementia training in the state. We believe the Portability of the certificate is critical. Once the completion of the initial training has taken place, the certification shall be portable between settings within Ohio.

Our recommendations come from the thousands of families the Association serves every year. Ohio's 65+ population is increasing year over year, and roughly 10% of those age 65 years and older living with Alzheimer's disease. Now is the time to act and put in place the infrastructure needed to combat this disease.

We are hopeful through the Ohio Department of Aging's leadership the Alzheimer's State Task Force will provide a State Plan that encompasses workforce, respite and early-detection. However, given that Ohio is projected to see a nearly 20% increase in those living with Alzheimer's and other dementias by 2030, House Bill 265 is an excellent starting point that will continue the kind of progress we need to see in our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Trey Addison".

Trey Addison