



Representative Mark Fraizer
71st Ohio House District

Topic: Assisted Living Testimony

Chairman Ginter, Vice-Chairman Swearingen and Ranking Member Howse, I appreciate the opportunity to address you and the members of the Aging and Long Term Care Committee about my legislation House Bill 509. HB 509 will provide residential care facilities the option to pay a fee of \$2,250 to receive an expedited inspection for licensing of new additions within an allotted timeframe.

Currently only new facilities have the option to pay this expedited fee, so this bill will give existing facilities the opportunity to pay a fee for service to the Department of Health when making expansions to their facilities. An existing problem within residential care facilities expansion is the timeliness of inspections to enable residents to move into completed facilities. With these current inspections, facilities are unable to predict inspection times and are willing to pay an additional fee to ensure timelines to on-board new patients. Residential care facilities have to hire new staff to employ in expanded facilities, and with this unknown wait time, they cannot effectively plan when they can become operational.

With the increasing population of elderly citizens we are seeing in Ohio, it is important to plan and encourage expansions within existing facilities, while removing unnecessary barriers to occupying completed facilities. This bill will provide residential care facilities to become operational at a faster rate and will encourage future developments with existing facilities to help care for our growing aging and disabled population.

Chairman Ginter, thank you for giving me time to discuss the legislation and I would be happy to answer any questions the members of the committee may have.