



OHIO COUNCIL
FOR HOME CARE & HOSPICE

Proponent Testimony for House Bill 498 (Fraizer)

Ohio Council for Home Care & Hospice

Joe Russell, Executive Director

May 28, 2020

Chairman Ginter, Vice Chairman Swearingen, Ranking Member Howse, and members of the House Aging and Long Term Care Committee. My name is Joe Russell and I am the Executive Director at the Ohio Council for Home Care and Hospice (OCHCH). Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 498.

The Ohio Council for Home Care and Hospice (OCHCH) represents over 600 home care, hospice, and palliative care agencies across the state of Ohio. Our members care for a variety of individuals ranging from medically fragile children, those who wish to recover at home from elective surgeries, mental health and addiction services, older Ohioans that wish to age in place, and many more.

OCHCH is supportive of the creation of the disability-related home expenses tax credit. This tax credit would allow for individuals to remain safe in their homes for longer, before potentially being moved to a long term care facility. It is our understanding that the current proposed language would allow for a tax credit to be utilized by the disabled and the sixty-and-up population. These are both vulnerable populations and home care providers can better care for these populations if their home environment is suitable. The various disability related expenses mentioned in the bill would include: modification to the home (wheelchair and bath tub ramps), expenses related to respite care, adult day care, hiring a home aide or personal care attendant, and assistive technology necessary for the care of the tax payer or the spouse/ dependent.

The tax credits mentioned would reduce expenses to the individual and could help them maximize their stay in their home environment. While this bill may reduce tax receipts overall, the cost of providing the same care to people in an institution would be exponentially higher.

We would like to commend Representative Fraizer for the introduction of this legislation that allows for individuals to continue to receive the care where it matters the most, at home. We urge your support to keep these vulnerable Ohioans in their homes for longer. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on HB 498, Please contact me at joe@ochch.org or 614-885-0434 ext. 208 should any questions arise.

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