



Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Advocacy. Action. Answers on Aging.

Larke Recchie
Executive Director

Ohio Association of
Area Agencies on
Aging (o4a)

88 E. Broad St.
Suite 870
Columbus, OH 43215
Phone: 614/481-3511
Fax: 614/481-3566
o4a@ohioaging.org
www.ohioaging.org

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Aging and Long Term Care Committee
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Presented by:

Larke Recchie
CEO, Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Chairman Ginter, Ranking Member Howse, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 498. My name is Larke Recchie and I am the CEO of the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging. We are part of a national network of over 600 on-the-ground organizations in each state, mandated by the Older Americans Act, and charged with helping Americans thrive in our homes and communities as we age. For many years, home and community-based services have been the key to meaningful, cost-effective options for older adults and people with disabilities to live healthy, engaged, secure lives in our homes and communities. Area Agencies on Aging and our provider partners are at the forefront of the effort to ensure that older Ohioans are safe and healthy at home especially during this time.

We are all aging, and we are living longer. We are fortunate to be in a period where we can say that we are living longer and healthier lives. In Ohio, we have the 6th largest population age 65 or older in the nation, and our ranks will continue to grow. By 2030, Ohio's population age 65 and older will increase by 40% compared to 2015. How well we thrive as we age is really a question of how well-equipped our communities are to tap into this resource by enabling us to be engaged participants. Everyone is more likely to enjoy positive aspects of aging like good health, personal growth, longevity, and expanded productivity if we start to think a little differently about how we shape the places we live.

No matter our age or abilities, we are entitled to be treated as full members of our communities. We understand that our state has many priorities that must be met. We must ensure adequate funding and system resources are dedicated to the full spectrum of supports to enable us to live healthy, engaged, and secure lives and access the supports we need in our homes and communities.

HB 498 provides a new, additional option to help support older Ohioans and people with disabilities to be able to thrive in their homes and communities. A refundable tax credit would help alleviate expenses necessary to modify an individual's home or obtain services and could delay or avoid the need for costly institutional care.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to the Committee. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.