



April 3rd, 2019

The Honorable Dave Burke
Chair, Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee
Ohio Senate
Ohio Statehouse
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio, and Members of the Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid Committee—

On behalf of the Ohio Occupational Therapy Association, I am writing you today to express our support for Senate Bill 24, sponsored by Senators Steve Wilson and Kenny Yuko. This legislation represents an important step forward in how Ohio treats individuals suffering from Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

As you know, SB 24 establishes the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Task Force; this task force would be comprised of twenty-one experts appointed by the Governor. The Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Task Force would study trends related to patient and provider needs, inventory existing resources for patients, and develop recommendations for strategies to improve the care of patients struggling with Alzheimer's and other dementias.

Occupational therapy providers work in the long-term care, home care, and adult day health setting and help individuals with dementia retain existing function for as long as possible. Occupational Therapy interventions for these clients can include health promotion, remediation of cognitive skills, strategies to improve performance of activities of daily living (ADLs), maintenance of habits and routines and, most frequently, modification of environments to improve supports for the client.

I want to commend the bill sponsors for bringing this important legislation forward and I strongly encourage you to support SB 24. Once enacted, I am optimistic that this Task Force will make meaningful progress and our members look forward to participating in meetings and sharing their expertise. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Finni, DHS, OTR/L
President
Ohio Occupational Therapy Association