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Written Testimony on House Bill 286
Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid Committee
November 27, 2018

Wesley Prater, AARP Ohio

Dear Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Beagle, Ranking Member Taveres, and members of the Committee,

AARP is a non-profit, non-partisan member organization representing the interests of 50+ Ohioans and their families. Our membership includes more than 1.5 million Ohioans statewide. We are committed to championing access to high quality health care for all generations, and serving as a reliable information source on issues critical to Americans age 50+.

Thus, we encourage you to support House Bill 286, legislation that would create the Palliative Care and Quality of Life Interdisciplinary Council, establish the Palliative Care Consumer and Professional Information and Education Program, and require health care facilities to identify patients and residents who could benefit from palliative care.

AARP Ohio strongly supports improved access to palliative care services regardless of patient setting (e.g., hospital, nursing home) and improved training and continuing education programs for health care professionals that would focus on palliative care, which this legislation aims to achieve. The Palliative Care and Quality of Life Interdisciplinary Council would also include representation of family caregivers. Family caregivers are the hidden heroes of our health care system and play a critical role in helping their loved ones. Therefore, we are pleased that family caregivers would be supported with representation on the Council.

We believe that House Bill 286 is a step in the right direction to help ensure that people are given more opportunities to make informed decisions about the appropriate range of medical and palliative options by improving the knowledge base about such care.

AARP Ohio urges you to support House Bill 286 for these reasons. We appreciate your close attention to the issue and your continued leadership as the bill moves forward.

Sincerely,

Wesley Prater

AARP Ohio, Associate State Director, Advocacy

Real Possibilities