

87th House District  
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And parts of: Marion, Seneca



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Ways and Means

From the desk of:

**Riordan McClain**  
State Representative

Good morning Chairman Hambley, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the House Civil Justice Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of House Bill 500 alongside my joint sponsor, Representative Kick.

As my colleague mentioned, this bill at its core seeks to give families the ability to see their loved ones, regardless of the situation. Numerous Ohio families have been affected by the inability to see their loved ones due to a bad relation with a step-parent, sibling, cousin or other caretaker. An example of this is Kerri Kasem, daughter of the late great radio legend Casey Kasem. Kerri was turned away from her dying father by his wife, her step-mother. Her father's life ended without his daughter by his side.

This legislation would give Ohioans the right to petition for reasonable visitation through the probate court in the county where the incompetent or ward resides. In addition to granting visitation, the court will be able to impose limits on the visitation or deny the petition after a review of the facts of the case.

Representative Kick and I introduced this bill using the original language from the last General Assembly, aware that there were a couple of concerns. We look forward to addressing interested parties and any potential changes to make this legislation as clear and concise as possible. Thank you for your time, we would like to open up the floor for any questions you may have.