



OHIO ASSISTED LIVING ASSOCIATION

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H.B. 466 Sponsor Comments by the Ohio Assisted Living Association

Chairman Stein, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan and members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee, thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of House Bill 466. My name is Melissa Shanmugam, and I am the Associate Director of the Ohio Assisted Living Association representing over 600 licensed Assisted Living communities in Ohio.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the staffing impact regarding Assisted Living facilities and how the problem has been exacerbated since the beginning of the COVID Pandemic. Assisted Living, along with all long-term-care industries, have experienced a severe shortage of facility staff, leading to a much greater need to utilize agency staffing.

Unfortunately, as this demand for agency staffing has increased, staffing agencies have used this opportunity to increase rates significantly above previous price points and at times increasing staffing cost based on demands within neighboring facilities.

Anecdotal reporting has included staffing agencies recruiting existing staff in a building for higher wages, only to bring them back to the same building as agency staff. Significant issues have been experienced by providers in situations where staffing agencies schedule their staff and the staff do not show up for a shift with no communication to the facility. Providers have seen a considerable lack of responsibility with staff provided by agencies since there is no direct accountability to the facility.

We believe that regulations on staffing agencies would allow them to be responsible, provide correct training and require accountability for staff utilized in facilities by creating a registry and complaint system through the Department of Health. House Bill 466 would allow for these standards to be met to ensure proper care and quality services to residents as well as provide standards for the industry.

Sincerely,

Melissa Shanmugam
Associate Director

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