



**Tim Ginter**  
**Speaker Pro-Tempore**  
State Representative, 5<sup>th</sup> District

Chair Manchester, Vice-Chair Cutrona, Ranking Member Denson, and members of the House Families, Aging, and Human Services Committee, thank you for giving Representative Carruthers and myself the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 572.

In a rapidly aging state, the issues that face elderly Ohioans are becoming increasingly more prominent. As the former chairman of this committee, I have seen how senior citizens are often left behind to struggle in their later years, despite having worked hard to pay into the government services they were promised would support them after retirement. As we continue to address their concerns, one of the most important areas we can look at is affordable assisted living.

Assisted living facilities provide all of the daily activities that individuals may need assistance with such as medication management, meal preparation, cleaning services and more. They provide an opportunity for seniors to maintain an independent lifestyle, while still receiving the care and support to keep them comfortable through the day. Assisted living has largely been inaccessible for seniors on Medicaid. Facilities are hesitant to accept those on the Assisted Living Waiver, rarely reserving more than half a dozen beds, knowing these beds will actually cost the facility money. Patients are then unnecessarily forced into skilled nursing facilities prematurely which will both strip them of their independence and significantly increase the cost to the state.

Ironically, soon after I began work on this bill, a constituent of mine, and a member of the church I pastor, contacted me quite distressed over her sister's situation who had been living in a nearby Assisted Living Facility for some years but had exhausted her own finances and was moving onto Medicaid. She was informed by the facility that since they only had two beds dedicated to Medicaid and those were already occupied, she would need to find another place to live as soon as possible. She was devastated. The family was forced to begin frantically searching for another facility and spent many tension filled days on the phone before they were able to locate a room a few miles away. She was very fortunate, but there are many Ohioans who are not.

We recognize that every senior has different needs. The language in HB572 was crafted to ensure that older Ohioans have more housing opportunities and an enhanced quality of life by providing the right care at the right place. You may notice that the sub. bill being adopted today is the 12<sup>th</sup> version of this bill. We have worked hard to make it as comprehensive as possible and truly fill the void in assisted living opportunities to low-to middle income Ohioans. The language

in front of you is a meaningful step to supporting this often forgotten demographic as they age into their senior years.

I will now hand it over to my joint sponsor, Representative Carruthers, who will then be followed up by proponents of this legislation, who will be able to elaborate on the bill's structure and impact.