



Your Aging and Disability Resource Network

3776 South High Street
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November 30, 2022

Chair Manchester and members of the Families, Aging, and Human Services Committee,

Thank you for hearing testimony regarding this important topic. As Ohio's population continues to age, it is vital that programs focused on supporting older adults receive the necessary funding to ensure every Ohioan can age with dignity, autonomy, and respect. On behalf of the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging, I would like to express our support for House Bill 572 regarding payments to certain residential care facilities sponsored by Representative Ginter and Representative Carruthers.

For over 40 years, the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging (COAAA) has continued to plan, fund, and deliver services that help older adults and individuals with disabilities remain safe and independent in their homes. With the assistance of area providers, COAAA arranges and coordinates services to help individuals with daily living, such as homemaking, transportation, home-delivered meals, and personal care. COAAA offers education and resources to caregivers, professionals, and the public and advocates for programs and policies that benefit older adults and individuals with disabilities. COAAA manages services for 10,000 people and funds services for another 20,000 older adults across eight counties Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Licking, Madison, Pickaway, and Union.

Included in the services offered to Central Ohio residents is the coordination of the Assisted Living Waiver Program. Our staff conducts evaluations of eligible candidates and connects them with appropriate providers. It is important to note that the individuals eligible for this program are determined to require a nursing home level of care. However, connecting them with Assisted Living placement is more cost-effective and has proven to support better outcomes for residents. Along with vital community-based services, the Assisted Living Waiver Program empowers older adults to choose the environment in which they age.

Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging • Grant Ames, Government & Community Affairs Manager

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House Bill 572 is critical to ensuring the viability of the Assisted Living Waiver Program. As costs for supportive care continue to rise, there is a need to ensure reimbursement rates remain comparable for the option of Assisted Living. I applaud this committee for taking up this important matter and look forward to HB 572 consideration in the Ohio General Assembly.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging at (614) 645-7250.

Sincerely,

Grant Ames

Grant Ames
Government & Community Affairs Manager, COAAA

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