



Testimony to the Ohio Senate Finance Committee
Jean Thompson, Executive Director, The Ohio Assisted Living
Re: Amended Substitute House Bill 110
June 4, 2021

Chairman Dolan, Vice-Chair Gavarone and Ranking Minority Member Sykes,

My name is Jean Thompson, Director of The Ohio Assisted Living Association, representing 593 of Ohio's 791 licensed Residential Care Facilities or as they are commonly known, Assisted Living communities. We are grateful for the increase provided by the Senate Finance Committee to the Assisted Living Medicaid Waiver (ALW) and other HCBS reimbursements. While it is not as much as we had requested, it is an increase, and we know how many competing demands there are for budget dollars. We encourage the full Senate and ultimately the Conference Committee to maintain this increase through the budget process.

Currently, the Assisted Living Medicaid Waiver at the highest level only reimburses \$72.26 per day, and that is a 24-hour day. The Assisted Living Medicaid Waiver is the only one of the HCBS that provides 24-hour care availability. Given that the program has only had one increase in reimbursement since 2006 and that was in the last budget (3.25%) any additional increase is needed and welcomed.

Additionally, we would like to thank you for removing the summary order language from the budget. There is already a process that allows ODH to close a facility for egregious issues of resident health and safety. Unfortunately, the previous language included on summary orders did not clarify sufficiently the parameters for closure without notice or appeal rights to providers.

We appreciate the work of the Senate and each of you as we move through the Budget process. Please feel free to call me with any questions.

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