

Columbus Office

Vern Riffe Center
77 S. High Street
10th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111
(614) 644-6886
Rep27@ohiohouse.gov



Committees:
Aviation and Aerospace, Ranking
Member
Behavioral Health
Health Provider Services
Public Health Policy
Technology and Innovation

Rachel Baker State Representative

HB 397 – Alzheimer’s Disease and Other Types of Dementia Awareness Sponsor Testimony Representative Rachel Baker

Chair Mathews, Vice Chair Stewart, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the Public Health Policy Committee,

Thank you for allowing us to come and testify on House Bill 397, legislation drafted to create a public awareness campaign to increase both the education and understanding of Alzheimer’s Disease and other types of dementia.

Rep Hoops and I were able to attend the recent Alzheimer’s Association Day at the statehouse and I talked with many Ohioans who provided stories of seeing signs early on but attributed them to “normal aging or forgetfulness” and thinking there was not a reason to follow up with a healthcare provider until the symptoms became more severe. We learned about groundbreaking clinical trials and medications that have the potential of stopping or slowing the progression of cognitive decline but only if these medications are started early in the disease process. I realized just how important it is that early symptoms are taken seriously by family members, who are often the first to notice, and by healthcare professionals.

I will now hand it over to my joint sponsor, Representative Hoops to speak on behalf of HB 397. Thank you.