

## Memo

To: Stephen A. Huffman, Chair, Senate Health Committee

From: Orion Bell, CEO, Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging

Date: May 3, 2023

Subject: Testimony in support of H. B. 33

This testimony is provided in support of proposed operating appropriations for fiscal years 2024-2025 proposed by the Department of Aging.

### **Background:**

Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging is a Cleveland-based nonprofit organization whose mission is to support caregivers and empower all people to age well through research, consumer-responsive services and client advocacy. Established in 1908, the Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging provides counseling, housing, health and wellness services for older adults and family caregivers in Ohio and across the United States. In addition, we are an independent, applied research institution that conducts research studies related to everyday issues faced by older people and their families. We use this knowledge to develop innovative solutions and foster informed engagement on issues impacting the field of aging. In 2022, more than 150,000 individuals accessed a service provided by Benjamin Rose.

### **Aging in Ohio**

Across the United States, older adults, those persons ages 60 and older, are the fastest growing population segment. It is estimated that by 2030, the number of older adults will exceed the number of school-aged children. As noted in the information provided by the Department of Aging:

- About 40% of older Ohioans with severe disabilities are cared for through a combination of family members and by purchasing some help using private funds. The public and private costs are considerable and are projected to increase substantially over the next two decades. By 2040, Scripps Gerontology researchers at Miami University estimate that Ohio will have more than 260,000 older people with severe disability affecting activities of daily living. If the current use rates continue that would result in some 130,000 older Ohioans needing long-term aging services supported by Medicaid.
- Ohio counties are aging. In the year 2000, none of Ohio counties had more residents over age 60 than under age 20. By the end of 2020, nearly 50% of the counties have flipped. Persons ages 85 and up, those who are more likely to be frailer and with more physical and health needs, are projected to increase by 51% by 2040.