



Karen Rose, PhD, RN, FGSA, FNAP, FAAN  
Dean and Professor  
The Ohio State University

Testimony before the Ohio House Children and Human Services Committee  
House Bill 96  
February 26, 2025

Chair White, Vice Chair Salvo, Ranking Member Lett, and members of the House Children and Human Services Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the Golden Buckeye Center for Dementia Caregiving, which is included in the Ohio Department of Aging section of the state operating budget for SFYs 2026 and 2027.

My name is Karen Rose, and I proudly serve as dean and professor at The Ohio State University College of Nursing. I am a gerontology nursing research expert with a focus on supporting persons with dementia and their family caregivers. Additionally, I am the co-director of the Golden Buckeye Center for Dementia Caregiving.

Our center, which is housed at our College of Nursing, was created in conjunction with Ohio's Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias Statewide Resource Program. This collaborative effort led by the Ohio Department of Aging aims to deliver information, education and resources to enhance the knowledge base and resource infrastructure throughout all of Ohio to support dementia family and friend caregivers.

House Bill 96, the state operating budget bill, includes continued funding to support the Golden Buckeye Center for Dementia Caregiving.

Here in Ohio, nearly 237-thousand people live with dementia, and approximately half a million informal caregivers provide care for them. The latest research now shows that the estimated lifetime risk of dementia is 42% for individuals over age 55. That's more than double previous estimates. The rising demand for dementia care, coupled with workforce shortages and access challenges, will continue to place an even greater strain on our informal caregiving networks. These unprecedented projections underscore the importance of supporting dementia caregivers for many years to come.

I would venture to assume that many of us in this room have experienced how caregivers provide comfort and service to people they care deeply about. It's easy for caregivers to feel like they're on an island when they are providing that help to a loved one or a patient living with dementia. And they give so much *of* themselves, sometimes they struggle with caring *for* themselves.

Our center is designed to help as they answer that calling to care – with education, resources, research and support services for family caregivers, primary care clinicians, first responders and employers across Ohio to build **connection, competence and confidence**. I'm pleased to share that during our first year of operation, the Golden Buckeye Center for Dementia Caregiving provided outreach, training, referral and support to nearly 10-thousand Ohioans. As we move forward, we look to expand our offerings to serve more individuals, including those in long-term care settings.

We maintain both an in-person and virtual presence, focused on developing and strengthening the knowledge, skills and support of family and professional caregivers. We have a strong cadre of research

and clinical practice faculty – with deep experience in gerontology, dementia assessment and caregiving – who are committed to discovering new avenues to help older adults living with dementia and to advocate for the caregivers who support them.

The Ohio State University College of Nursing is grateful for the continued support and partnership of the Ohio Department of Aging. We urge the House to maintain this investment to ensure Ohioans can continue to have access to these vital tools that, again, help them answer that calling to care.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today, and I'm happy to answer any questions.

Karen Rose, PhD, RN, FGSA, FNAP, FAAN  
Dean and Professor