

April 2, 2025

Chairperson Stewart, Vice Chair Dovilla, Ranking Member Sweeney and distinguished House Finance Committee members:

Hopefully, what you read below will cause you to pause and support the Ohio HC 2336, Supporting Family Caregivers Tax Credit amendment.

I was a caregiver for my mom and her husband for eight years. My Mom has finally healed, and her husband died at the age of 96.

I ran most of the errands for the household. I paid for gasoline and had uncompensated time for transportation to the pharmacy, grocery store, library, doctors (eye, specialty, OT, PTs, ear-throat), blood work at labs, restaurants for takeout orders, birthday cake pickups, department stores, hospital costs, etc.:

- 3 -4 times a week= \$150/week =\$450 per month/\$5400 per year.
- 8 years @ \$5400/year=\$43,200.

I was there 24/7.

Below is how much an in-home caregiver makes:

- In Columbus, Ohio the max rate is \$28.86 per hour (source: care.com).
- 8,447 hours for one year (excludes weekends) =\$243,780.42.

I was a caregiver for 8 years and if I was a paid caregiver instead of an unpaid family caregiver at 8,447 hours a year it would equal \$1,950,243.36 (staggering and scary).

I own my business, which allowed for flexibility. During the time that I was a caregiver for my mom and her husband, it was a challenge due to having a limited workspace in the home. My office was right by the front door which put me in the position to keep an eye out for the various medical persons/family etc. coming by. My work schedule was adjusted to assist however was needed. The not getting rest started catching up to me later when I played catch up for work by getting up early or late at night.

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2. Abaree Rayfield witness testimony HC 2336

I had zero debt when I moved to Columbus, Ohio, to be their caregiver. I used credit cards and loans to supplement my income, which put me in debt. I used the credit cards/loans as a down payment for my car, pay for food, get clothing, gas, to make ends meet. My credit score is low as a result.

Caregiving is a blessing, although challenging at times. The equation should have more pluses than minuses at the end of the day. That is what the Family Caregiver Tax Credit could do – help balance the equation leaving the caregivers on the plus side.

Thank You so much for your time and consideration.

Abaree Rayfield

Phone: 404-406-8380

Primary Email: infocosofmanna@gmail.com