



State Representative Justin Pizzulli

Sponsor Testimony - House Bill 552

House Medicaid Committee

November 3rd, 2025

Chair Gross, Vice Chair Barhorst, Ranking Member Baker, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 552, legislation to ensure that Medicaid hospice providers are fully reimbursed when caring for patients in nursing facilities or ICF/IIDs.

Under current law, hospice providers are reimbursed at only 95% of the facility's per diem rate. That 5% shortfall creates a financial strain on hospices that already operate on thin margins and, more importantly, threatens access to quality end-of-life care for Ohio families.

House Bill 552 corrects this by requiring Medicaid to reimburse hospice providers at **100% of the facility's per diem rate** for days when a patient receives routine or continuous home care. It is a modest policy adjustment with a meaningful human and fiscal impact.

According to the Legislative Service Commission, this change is estimated to cost the state approximately \$3.4 million. However, research consistently shows that hospice care significantly lowers overall healthcare expenditures by reducing unnecessary hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and aggressive end-of-life interventions.

- A JAMA Health Forum study and research by NORC at the University of Chicago found that hospice enrollment saves payers billions of dollars nationally and substantially reduces out-of-pocket costs for families.
- The American Cancer Society reported that patients receiving aggressive end-of-life care incur 43% higher costs than those managed non-aggressively.
- Cancer Network found that non-hospice patients had far higher rates of hospitalizations (65% vs. 42%), ICU admissions (36% vs. 15%), and invasive procedures (51% vs. 27%) than hospice patients.

By aligning reimbursement with actual costs, House Bill 552 ensures fairness, stabilizes hospice providers, and safeguards access to compassionate, cost-effective care for Ohioans in life's final chapter.

Thank you for your time and attention. Following Representative Lett's testimony, we would be pleased to answer any questions from the committee.

References:

- JAMA Health Forum: [Hospice Enrollment and Healthcare Expenditures](#)
- NORC at the University of Chicago: [Value of Hospice in Medicare Report](#)
- ACS Journals: [End-of-Life Care Cost Analysis](#)
- Cancer Network: [Hospice Patients Have Fewer Hospitalizations and Lower Costs](#)