Hearcel F. Craig
Assistant Minority Leader
15th Senate District

Sponsor Testimony for Senate Bill 314 of the 136th General Assembly

Ohio Senate Health Committee

May 13th, 2026

Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on the Ohio Dementia Care Training Act for Nurse Aides. I am proud to co-sponsor this legislation with Senator Liston.

Ohio is aging rapidly. By 2030, more than one in four Ohioans will be age 60 or older. As more Ohioans live with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia, it's more important than ever to make sure caregivers have the right training and support. Setting clear, consistent dementia training standards will help ensure high-quality, compassionate care across the state. It will also ease stress for caregivers and give families greater confidence that their loved ones are receiving the best possible care.

This legislation would require long-term and residential care facilities to provide nurse aides with at least two hours of dementia-specific training as part of their competency evaluation and annual in-service education. The Department of Health will approve evidence-based training programs, such as those offered by the Alzheimer's Association, focused on communication, behavior management, promoting dignity, independence, and quality of life care.

Establishing clear, uniform dementia training standards will strengthen the workforce and improve outcomes. Ohio will enhance care quality, reduce workforce stress, and better support families who entrust their loved ones to long-term care providers.

This proposal stems directly from the Governor's Nursing Home Quality Task Force Report, which recommends dementia care training for certified nurse aides (CNAs) as an "Immediate Action." The Ohio Health Care Association, which served on the task force, supported these recommendations, reflecting a strong and broad consensus among long-term care stakeholders.

I am grateful to Senator Liston for her partnership on this bill and to the committee for your thoughtful consideration. I respectfully ask for your support and would be happy to answer any questions.

Ohio Senate | 1 Capitol Square Columbus, OH 43215 | (614) 466-5131 | Craig@ohiosenate.gov

PRINTED IN-HOUSE