SENATOR STEVE WILSON

Senate Health Committee
June 10, 2026
Senate Bill 319

Senator Wilson

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking-Member Liston, and members of the Health Committee. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 319, which builds upon legislation I sponsored during the 132nd General Assembly to combat elder fraud and exploitation.

When I was a community banker, I witnessed daily attempts of Ohio's seniors being financially exploited by the worst actors in our society. That's why one of the very first pieces of legislation that I authored was Senate Bill 158, which established into law a better framework to combat elder fraud through increased awareness, education and enforcement.

Senator Hicks-Hudson brought it to my attention that in current law, local Adult Protective Services may not be authorized to investigate cases of financial exploitation against those who live in a licensed care facility. With this important revision, we will be making it clear that the enforcement tools afforded by my original bill extend to all Seniors in Ohio.

I'd like to thank my Honorable colleague from Toledo for inviting me to be her Joint Sponsor on this simple yet substantial update to our Elder Abuse law that will further protect this vulnerable population. I'd also like to thank the Chairman for the opportunity to testify, and we will be happy to answer any questions that the Committee may have.