



**Representative Mark Fraizer  
71<sup>st</sup> Ohio House District**

HB 770 Sponsor Testimony

Thank you Chairman Ginter, Vice-Chairman Swearingen, Ranking Member Howse, and the members of the Aging and Long Term Care Committee; I appreciate the opportunity to address all of you about this critical piece of legislation, House Bill 770. This bill will establish specific guidelines for allowing essential caregivers into a long term care facility to provide various services for residents, while meeting stringent safety standards.

HB 770 requires that the essential caregiver must be at least 18 years old, and must be there to provide compassionate care for the resident. This includes services like simple visitation, providing residents with much needed connection and one-on-one time. Under this legislation, residents will have a say in who their caregiver is, and be provided access to quality time with the loved ones they haven't seen due to pandemic related restrictions.

While present with residents, the caregiver must wear a face covering, additional personal protective equipment, and must be diligent about adhering to social distancing and following facility health and safety guidelines. Before entering the facility, caregivers and visitors alike will be screened for symptoms, tested based on facility standards, and must agree to limit contact with any individual while in the facility. This is intended to prevent COVID-19 outbreaks occurring within the facility, ensure safe access for loved ones, hospice, home health, or welfare agents.

HB 770 will greatly improve the quality of life for residents, by returning the ability for them to connect with others. With many months of residents being forced to adapt to ever changing visitation requirements, HB 770 will drastically improve the quality of life of our long-term-care residents

Thank you Chairman Ginter, Vice-Chairman Swearingen, Ranking Member Howse, and the members of the House Aging and Long Term Care Committee for hearing this bill. Representative Richardson and I will be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.