



Advocacy. Action. Answers on Aging.

Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 54

Larke Recchie, CEO

Chairman LaRe, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of Senate Bill 54.

The Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging is a nonprofit, statewide network of agencies that provide services for older Ohioans, people with disabilities and their families. The Association engages in national and statewide advocacy to address issues which have an impact on the aging and disability network and older Ohioans and people with disabilities, provides services to members and serves as a collective voice for Ohio's 12 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs).

Ohio's Area Agencies on Aging are part of a national network of 600 on-the-ground organizations in each state, mandated by the Older Americans Act, and charged with helping Americans thrive in our homes and communities as we age. We are mission-driven primarily not-for-profit organizations that operate a complex service delivery system that provides access to community-based, in-home and elder rights services to 300,000 older Ohioans and people with disabilities.

Ohio's AAAs are grateful this legislation was proposed that creates offenses of theft for conversion of a telephone number or exchange and providing misleading caller identification information. Scammers are increasingly targeting older adults with scams to steal money or get personal information they can use to open accounts and access other benefits.

More specifically, AAAs support the provisions in the legislation to increase penalties on those committing illegal robocalls. The offense generally is a fifth degree felony, but if the victim is an older adult, disabled adult, active duty service member, or spouse of an active duty service member, the offense is a fourth degree felony.

We support the principle of addressing exploitation of older adults and believe SB 54 is a great step forward in fighting financial exploitation.

Thank you.