

### 51st House District

Portions of Butler County, including Hamilton and Fairfield, Ross Township and portions of Fairfield, Hanover and St. Clair townships

### Columbus Office

Vern Riffe Center  
77 S. High Street, 13th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111  
(614) 644-6721  
(800) 282-0253  
[Rep51@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Rep51@ohiohouse.gov)  
[www.ohiohouse.gov](http://www.ohiohouse.gov)



**Sara P. Carruthers**  
Ohio State Representative

### Committees

-Behavioral Health & Recovery Supports (Chair)-  
-Finance-  
-Families, Aging & Human Services-

### Commissions/Councils/Boards

-Early Childhood Advisory Council-  
-Ohio Arts Council-

**House Bill 461 Sponsor Testimony**  
**House Economic and Workforce Development Committee**  
**November 17, 2021**

Chairman Edwards, Vice Chairwoman Powell, Ranking Member Upchurch and members of the House Economic and Workforce Development Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak on House Bill 461.

We all know nursing homes faced difficult situations throughout the pandemic. This bill seeks to address and alleviate some of those financial concerns. Ohio's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds would be allocated to nursing homes in order to help them.

Some of the significant impacts:

- Occupancy remains lower;
- Staffing costs are high, especially with increased use of agency staffing that can cost twice as much;
- The additional costs of personal protection equipment remain;
- Additional training, testing, and data reporting have increased costs.

The Medicaid rate does not account for the additional costs of the pandemic. The cost-based portion of the formula is from costs that occurred prior to the pandemic.

I'm sure everyone has an opinion on where the ARPA monies should go, but I feel the Ohioans in nursing homes need functioning efficient and effective stays that are safe.

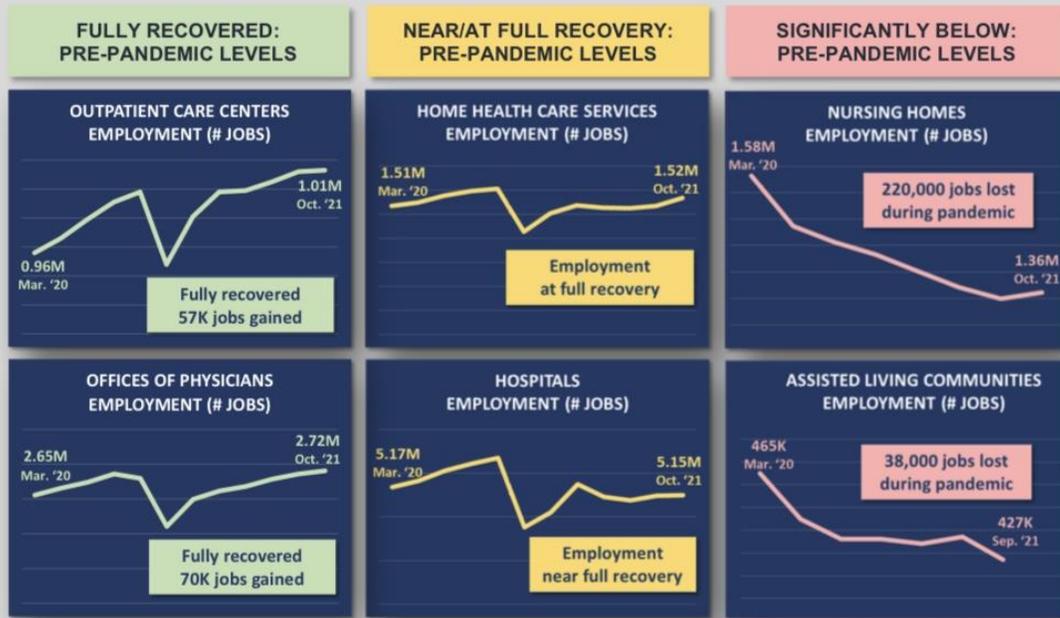
Please review the graph below to see how the nursing home are doing related to employment.



## BLS OCTOBER JOBS REPORT: HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY

### Long Term Care Industry Facing Worst Job Loss Among All Health Care Providers

While hospitals, physicians' offices, outpatient care centers and other health care facilities have reached or surpassed pre-pandemic staffing levels, nursing homes and assisted living communities are still experiencing substantial job losses according to the latest October employment data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).



BLS Employment Data by Healthcare Sector (Mar. 2020 vs. Oct. 2021)

	Physicians' Offices	Outpatient Care	Home Health	Hospitals	Nursing Homes	Assisted Living*
Mar. 2020	2,699,000	998,000	1,543,000	5,236,000	1,582,000	465,000
Oct. 2021	2,721,000	1,013,000	1,524,000	5,150,000	1,361,000	427,000
Difference #	22K jobs gain	15K jobs gain	19K jobs lost	86K jobs lost	221K jobs lost	38K jobs lost
Difference %	0.8%	1.5%	-1.2%	-1.6%	-14.0%	-8.2%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) March 2019 – October 2021  
 \*Assisted Living BLS data through September 2020

There is an amendment that I've submitted to the Chairman's office that makes clarification to the current language that is in House Bill 461.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I would happy to answer any questions.