

Ohio General Assembly

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## Mark D. Fraizer

State Representative, District 71

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### HB 120 Sponsor Testimony

Thank you Chairwoman Manchester, Vice-Chairman Cutrona, Ranking Member Liston, and the members of the Families, Aging and Human Services Committee; I appreciate the opportunity to address all of you about this critical piece of legislation, House Bill 120. House Bill 120 is similar to HB 770 of the previous general assembly, and establishes specific guidelines for allowing compassionate caregivers into a long term care facility to provide various services for residents, while meeting safety standards to protect resident, staff, and visitor alike.

HB 120 requires access to compassionate caregivers to provide compassionate care for residents under the well-established guidance in-line with industry and regulatory standards. This includes services for residents experiencing their end of life, difficulties adjusting to their environment, grieving, difficulties eating or drinking, or emotional distress from isolation.

While visiting with residents, the caregiver must wear a face covering and must be diligent about adhering to social distancing and following facility health and safety guidelines. This is intended to prevent COVID-19 outbreaks occurring within the facility, while ensuring safe access for loved ones, hospice, home health, or welfare agents. There are also specific circumstances to ensure access to medical personnel in case of emergency access or transportation is required.

HB 120 will greatly improve the quality of life for residents by returning the ability for them to connect with others, and remove uncertainty from facilities forced to cope with ever-changing guidance from the State Department of Health. Over these pandemic months, families, facilities, and residents have been forced to adapt to ever changing visitation requirements, HB 120 will drastically improve the quality of life of our long-term-care residents and stabilize visitation policies during the pandemic.

Thank you Chairwoman Manchester, Vice-Chairman Cutrona, Ranking Member Liston, and the members of the Families, Aging and Human Services Committee for hearing this bill. Representative Richardson and I will be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.