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Health

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Families, Aging, & Human
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Government Oversight

Chairman Manchester, Vice Chair Cutrona, Ranking Member Liston and members of the House Families, Aging, and Human Services Committee, thank you for allowing me to come before you today and present sponsor testimony on House Bill 179.

This bill creates licenses for both skilled and nonmedical home health services. Skilled Home Health Services include: physical, speech, and occupational therapy, nursing care, and are intended to treat illnesses and/or injuries. A home care license for skilled care would require providers to complete an application through ODH and provide additional documentation to prove that they are Medicare certified, and/or otherwise accredited by one of the three national health care accreditation bodies. A separate licensing tier exists for agencies that are not Medicare certified or otherwise accredited, but still provide skilled services. Providers of these services will have to submit an application through ODH and provide additional documentation that is based on the Medicare Conditions of Participation.

Nonmedical or Personal Care Services are intended to assist individuals with staying in their home, such as: meal preparation, housekeeping, assistance with daily living activities. If there is a skilled accredited provider who administers nonmedical services they should be exempt from obtaining an additional license. These providers are already required to follow the skilled requirements. A home care license for nonmedical services by a non-Medicare certified or otherwise accredited providers would need to submit an application to be completed through ODH. Additionally, the provider would need to give documentation proving that a minimum standard is met. These providers would be held to standards per agency rule and subject to additional documentation requests.

Thank you once again, Chairman Manchester, and committee members for allowing me to testify on House Bill 179. I am happy to step aside and let my colleague talk about the expedited inspections portion of the bill.