



Representative Mark Fraizer
71st Ohio House District

Topic: HB 179 Sponsor Testimony

Thank you Chairwoman Manchester, Vice Chairman Cutrona, Ranking Member Liston and members of Families, Aging and Human Services. HB 179 will provide residential care facilities the option to pay a fee of \$2,250 to receive an expedited inspection for licensing for new additions to existing facilities within an allotted timeframe of 10 days.

Currently only new facilities have the option to pay this expedited fee, so this bill will give existing facilities the opportunity to pay the same fee when making expansions to their facilities. An existing problem within residential care facility's expansion is the timeliness of inspections to enable residents to move into completed facilities. With these current inspections for expansions, facilities are unable to predict inspection times and are willing to pay an additional fee to ensure timelines to on-board new patients. Residential care facilities have to hire new staff to employ in expanded facilities, and with this unknown wait time, they cannot effectively plan to become operational and maintain the on-going costs of a fully staffed facility.

With the increasing elderly population in Ohio, it is important to plan and encourage expansions within existing facilities, while removing unnecessary barriers to occupying completed facilities. This bill will allow residential care facilities to become operational at a faster rate and will encourage future developments with existing facilities to help care for our growing aging and disabled population.

This service is already being provided by the Department of Health, just not equally to new and expanded facilities. We are providing ODH additional income to help cover the cost of inspections, expect limited usage due to the strain on assisted living facilities from Covid-19 resulting in excess capacity, and will provide greater accountability for the Department of Health to prioritize their inspection workload appropriately. Currently these inspections average 30 days and can take longer without any fee income, we must close the gap between the New and Expanded Facility Inspections.

Thank you Chairwoman Manchester, Vice Chairman Cutrona, Ranking member Liston and members of Families, Aging, and Human Services. I will now turn it over to my joint sponsor, Representative Ginter.