

TERESA FEDOR
Ohio State Representative
45th House District
77 South High Street, 10th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215



Committees
Education—*Ranking Member*
Armed Services, Veterans Affairs,
Public Safety
Ways and Means

REPRESENTATIVE TERESA FEDOR

HB 567 – Limit Long-Term Care Premium Rate Increases **Sponsor Testimony**

December 5, 2018

Good day Chairman Arndt, Vice Chair Pelanda, Ranking Member Howse, and my esteemed colleagues on the House Aging and Long Term Care Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 567, the Dal Lawrence Act.

It is time to protect Ohioans and Ohio families from surprise, long-term care premium hikes.

The Dal Lawrence Act prohibits insurance providers from increasing long-term care premiums by more than 15% from one year to the next. Additionally, providers must notify policy holders of an increase in their premium rate no later than 90 days before the increase becomes effective. The bill provides that new premium rate increases will not become effective until 90 days after approval by the Ohio Department of Insurance.

This bill came to me from the personal story of a friend whose husband’s long-term care insurance had increased by 40%, bringing their premium to over \$800 per quarter for only modest coverage. Unfortunately, far too many Ohioans have faced surprise premium rate hikes, which makes planning, seeking, and maintaining adequate care prohibitively expensive.

Imposing these limitations on insurance providers is vitally important to Ohioans. Right now, it is the wild, wild west when it comes to insurance. Insurance companies have the ability to change their prices at any time and by any number because they know that each of us rely on them for our care. This bill will be a powerful check on insurance companies and put Ohio families, and their hard-earned money, first.

Dal Lawrence, after whom the bill is named, had hoped to attend the hearing to provide testimony but the condition of his health prevents him from traveling. He asked me and I ask all of my colleagues to consider, “When was the last time you received a letter from one of the staples in your home that said there would be a 40% price hike?” Insurance is a staple for Ohioans to ensure their health and overall wellness.

Too many Ohio families have faced hardship from unfair, and deceptive long-term care premium hikes. Sixteen other states have already placed similar checks on insurance companies in order to protect their residents. The Dal Lawrence Act, or House Bill 567, will protect everyday Ohioans by putting a long overdue check on insurance companies.