



Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Advocacy. Action. Answers on Aging.

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Senator Kevin Bacon, Chair
Judiciary Committee
Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square, Ground Floor
Columbus OH 43215

RE: SB 158

Dear Chairman Bacon:

The Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging is submitting this letter in support of SB 158.

The Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging represents twelve regionally-based Area Agencies on Aging in Ohio that fund, plan, and coordinate services for, as well as advocate for, older adults and their families throughout Ohio. The Area Agencies on Aging were established under the federal Older Americans Act in 1973 to serve as organizations charged with assisting older persons to live with independence and dignity in their homes and communities. The Area Agencies on Aging administer and provide case management for the PASSPORT, Assisted Living and Ohio Home Care waiver programs, coordinate care in MyCare Ohio, oversee Older Americans Act-funded programs such as the Meals on Wheels program, and oversee and administer a variety of county levy programs.

Area Agencies on Aging are on the frontlines in the homes of individuals and interacting with caregivers. Older adults can be very isolated and often have a fear of nursing homes which can keep them from asking for help, especially in cases of elder abuse and financial exploitation.

Senate Bill 158 is a step in the right direction to the increasing problem of financial exploitation of older adults. The bill promotes more public education, education of financial professionals, criminal financial penalties, and more collaboration among public entities that are charged with reporting, investigating and prosecuting elder abuse and financial exploitation. These are all important, positive steps in the fight against elder abuse.

Thank you for your support of older Ohioans. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions.

Sincerely,

Beth Kowalczyk
Chief Policy Officer
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