

38<sup>th</sup> House District

Summit County (part)  
Stark County (part)

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Committees

Finance,  
Finance Health & Human Services  
Subcommittee Chair,  
Financial Institutions,  
Ways & Means  
Commerce and Labor

**Bill Roemer**

State Representative

House Finance

House Bill 600 Sponsor Testimony

November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Chair Oelslager, Vice Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the House Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 600. This legislation amends portions of the Revised Code to expand Ohio's Medicaid component known as the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). PACE is a managed care model that provides participants with needed health care, medical care, and ancillary services in acute, sub-acute, institutional, and community settings. It's built to generate strong incentives to proactively and comprehensively manage the care needs of enrollees to help avoid costly hospital and nursing home use.

HB 600 is really a win win win. It's a win for families, because their loved one is being well taken care of. It's a win for the individual because they get to stay home and receive outstanding care, and it's a win for the state because the states saves an estimated \$30 million a year with a payback of 21 months. From the driver to the social worker and the many roles and responsibilities in-between, PACE care providers work in-conjunction with one-another to ensure the best possible care is provided for the patient. Through coordinated care, enrollees, many with substantial health issues, receive outstanding care. The enrollee is brought to the PACE center, receiving a hot meal, activities with their peers and, most importantly, the enrollee will receive excellent needed care from an interdisciplinary care team comprising of clinicians, therapists, dieticians, social workers, and direct care workers. This has proved to be very successful in Cuyahoga County and should be expanded.

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Ohio is home to the third-largest PACE eligible population in the country but currently only 16.2% of the eligible PACE population in Ohio lives within the service area of a PACE provider, only those in Cuyahoga County. Ohio has fallen significantly behind contiguous states regarding the number of PACE organizations available. Our neighbors to the North have 14 PACE organizations serving 24 locations throughout the state while Pennsylvania currently has 33 PACE sites operating throughout the state. Meanwhile, Kentucky and Indiana have announced further expansion. This legislation would expand PACE services to areas such as: Franklin, Hamilton, Montgomery, Summit, Lucas, and Lorain Counties.

90% of national PACE participants are dually eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid services comprising at risk older individuals with multiple chronic and co-morbid illnesses and functional impairments. The monthly rate for dual eligible (Medicaid and Medicare) PACE participants is \$2,926, compared to a state Medicaid managed care plan's monthly dual enrollment rate of \$4,048 and nursing home costs average \$6,750.

Chair Oelslager and members of the committee, thank you again for the opportunity to testify. I welcome any questions you may have at this time.