



Representative Boyd Sponsor Testimony House Bill 79 House Ways & Means Committee

Thank you Chairman Merrin, Vice Chair Riedel, Ranking member Sobecki, and Members of the House Ways & Means Committee for hearing sponsor testimony for House Bill 79- The Caregiver Tax Credit Bill. I also want to thank my Joint Sponsor, Representative Russo.

In the context of this bill, we are talking about informal caregivers--an unpaid individual---involved in assisting others with activities of daily living and/or medical tasks. These, for example, include a spouse, partner, family member, friend, or neighbor. In Ohio alone, an estimated 1.7 million people provide caregiving services for their aging and disabled loved ones. Studies show that an average of 20% of a family's income goes towards paying for caregiving costs.

A 2015 report by the National Alliance for Caregiving and the AARP found that there are more than 43.5 million Americans who provide regular caregiving to adults or children in a 12 month period, 34.2 million Americans have been caregivers to an adult age 50 or older in a 12 month period, and about 15.7 million adult family caregivers care for someone who has Alzheimer's disease or other dementia. In Ohio, there are as many as 1.4 million individuals providing unpaid caregiving to loved ones that comes out to roughly 1.3 billion hours of unpaid hours.

Research shows that unpaid family caregiving provides important economic benefits to society by reducing public and private spending on long-term services and supports. The value of services provided by informal caregivers has steadily increased over the last decade, with an estimated economic value of \$470 billion in 2013. The value of unpaid caregiving exceeded the value of paid home care and total Medicaid spending in the same year, and nearly matched the value of the sales of the world's largest company, Wal-Mart.

While caregivers provide important economic benefits to society, caregivers are frequently subject to financial and personal strains. Caregiver stress can manifest itself in many ways including social isolation, health problems, depression, and more. Income-related losses sustained by family caregivers ages 50 and older who leave the workforce to care for a parent are \$303,880, on average, in lost income and benefits over a caregiver's lifetime.

Caregiving is a thankless job, but we do it because we love and care for the person in their time of need. As much as caregivers provide to the economy and the vitality of communities, we, the lawmakers and the state of Ohio should be meeting them halfway and supporting them in their work.



Thank you Chairman Merrin, Vice Chair Riedel, Ranking member Sobecki, and Members of the House Ways & Means Committee for the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony for House Bill 79. My joint sponsor and I will answer any questions from the committee.