



**Representative Al Cutrona**  
**58<sup>th</sup> Ohio House District**

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Stewart and members of the Public Health Policy committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide Sponsor Testimony for HB 246 today.

The goal of HB 246 is to streamline the self-directed services process under the Ohio Department of Medicaid and The Ohio Department of Aging. These services will be under the PASSPORT program, The Ohio Home Care waiver and The MyCare Ohio HCBS waiver.

For this process to be streamlined, ODA and ODM must do the following:

- Combine waiver participant orientation meetings into one meeting
- Establish timelines for completing direct service worker certification processes
- Establish reporting requirements to monitor compliance for these timelines
- Combine the direct service worker certification and participant enrollment steps concurrently rather than sequentially to the extent possible
- Collect and compile data
- Permit direct services workers and participants to apply separately and be certified or enrolled without first requiring a match between a direct service worker and a waiver participant
- Permit direct service workers to provide conditional self-directed services for up to 60 days while undergoing any required criminal background checks and training
- Expand MyCare Ohio to make it available in all Ohio counties and include options for participants to self-direct services

Additionally, under HB 246 ODM is required to implement the above requirements under the Ohio Home Care waiver as soon as possible, but within one year of the bill's effective date.

It also requires that waiver participants are enrolled in and eligible to receive self-directed services within 30 days after applying. This is to ensure that we continue to support direct service workforce and the shortage it is facing.

Finally, the bill requires the Medicaid Director to annually report to the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee and General Assembly the number and percent of waiver program participants offered the option to self-direct Medicaid HCBS services and the number and percent of participants electing to self-direct Medicaid and HCBS services under the PASSPORT program, The Ohio Home Care waiver and The MyCare Ohio HCBS waiver.