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James Hoops
State Representative

Chairman Mathews, Vice Chair Stewart, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the Public Health Policy Committee, I want to reiterate the importance of expanding awareness to early signs of dementia for all Ohioans as our advancements in cognitive science continue to address the needs of our aging communities, family and neighbors. As public servants, it is our obligation to listen and champion legislation that educates and informs those who are most at risk for Alzheimer's and dementia.

House Bill 397 helps to make Ohioans more aware of the early warning signs of dementia by tasking the Ohio Department of Health to coordinate with the Department of Aging, the Commission on Minority Health, and community organizations in this space to incorporate Alzheimer's and dementia awareness into their public health outreach to communities and health care providers. Information will include early warning signs, reducing risk factors and risk of decline, importance of timely diagnosis, evidence-based assessment tools, and the importance of annual wellness visits. By coordinating the appropriate agencies and community experts in this field, this legislation seeks to develop important collaborations to increase early identification and increase the ability of patients to access early intervention ultimately improving the health of older Ohioans.

Chair Mathews, Vice Chair Stewart, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the Public Health Policy Committee, thank you again for allowing Representative Baker and I to testify. We are happy to answer any questions you may have.