



Department of Aging

John Kasich, Governor

Bonnie K. Burman, Sc.D., Director

Chairman Jordan, Vice-Chairman Brown, members of the Sunset Review Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Ohio Advisory Council for Aging. My name is Emilia Jackson and I am the Executive Assistant to the Director and the staff person assigned to facilitate the council meetings. I'm here to explain the important role of this Council and to respectfully ask for the Committee's consideration in its reauthorization.

As we know, Ohio's baby boomers are getting older and in the next five years, 25% of Ohio's population will be over the age of 60. It's projected that by 2050, 29% of Ohio's population will be over the age of 60, 24% will be over the age of 65 and an amazing 5.9% will be over the age of 85. While this positive projection of longer life calls for celebration, it also requires that Ohio be strategic and deliberate in creating an Ohio that our elders deserve. The Ohio Department of Aging is preparing for this growing shift in population and relies on the Advisory Council for Aging to influence and advise our efforts.

Along with the required work that the Advisory Council does – which includes reviewing and contributing to our State Plan on Aging, the state biennial budget, and advocating for specific administrative and legislative actions that impact older Ohioans -- the Council members also carry and advocate for our state aging priorities and initiatives into their home regions.

Because of its composition of members, the Council fulfills a unique role that isn't duplicated by any other group in Ohio. Council members are uncompensated and the cost of the Council last year was \$423. This 12-seat Council is appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Membership on the Advisory Council is diverse. A majority of the members must be over the age of fifty and no more than seven can be from the same political party.

The Advisory Council's ex officio members include two State Senators, Senator Cafaro, and Senator Lehner, and two House members, Representative Hagan and Representative Ramos, appointed by the Senate President and Speaker of the House respectively. The directors of Medicaid, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Developmental Disabilities, Health and Job and Family Services also serve as ex officio members. We're also pleased to have the active attendance of Aging stakeholders such as: AARP Ohio, Ohio Association of Senior Centers, Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Alzheimer's Association, Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging, Ohio Council for Home Care & Hospice, and CareSource. While not statutory members, these stakeholders observe and contribute to the meetings.

It's important to note that the Council's member composition must include professionals from the fields of business, labor, health, law, and human services – which means they're well-positioned to positively influence the professional entities they represent along with community leaders in which they reside, by calling attention, raising awareness and influencing change among their professional ranks and communities that Aging is everyone's business.

We gratefully acknowledge Governor Kasich and the Ohio General Assembly for their thoughtful appointments to the Advisory Council. Recent appointments of two physicians now offer perspective and counsel on whether and how our agency's nutritional and chronic

disease self-management programs can be improved to increase the quality of life as Ohioans age.

On behalf of the Department of Aging, we ask for your support for the Ohio Advisory Council for Aging. Thank you for the opportunity to share our perspective on the Council and for your consideration in its reauthorization. I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.