

**Sunset Review Committee Testimony
Ohio Advisory Council for Aging**

August 28, 2024 – 1:30pm

Chair Wilkin, Vice-Chair Hillyer, and members of the Sunset Review Committee, I am Matt Lampke, Chief Counsel for the Ohio Department of Aging. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the Ohio Advisory Council for Aging.

The Ohio Advisory Council for Aging (advisory council) was established in 2000 to provide guidance to the director of the Department of Aging on matters impacting older adults. Pursuant to R.C. § 173.03, members come from broad and diverse professional backgrounds to represent the needs of Ohio's aging population. The advisory council offers input on agency plans and pending state and federal legislation, including budgets. Members also serve as aging ambassadors at the local level.

The advisory council is made up of 21 members. Twelve members are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. A majority of those appointed members must be at least 50 years of age and represent the following professional fields and interests: business, labor, health, law, and human services. The other nine members serve in an ex-officio capacity. The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House each appoint two members, one from each party. Five seats are reserved for the directors of the Ohio Departments of Medicaid, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Developmental Disabilities, Health, and Job and Family Services. Collectively, these members represent the greater interests of older adults and the services and supports available to them.

The Department of Aging supports the administrative functions for the advisory council at no additional cost to Ohio taxpayers. Members do not receive compensation but may request mileage reimbursement when serving in their official capacities. The department absorbs those costs, and no additional staff outside the department are needed to assist in planning and coordinating quarterly advisory council meetings and bi-monthly committee meetings.

Chair Wilkin, Vice-Chair Hiller, and members of the committee, thank you again for the opportunity to speak in support of the Advisory Council for Aging. On behalf of Director McElroy, we respectfully request your favorable consideration, and I am happy to address any questions at this time.