Hello, my name is Nina Westvold from Overland Park. I am the sole caregiver for my 64-year-old husband who has Alzheimer's. I have spent several years learning and figuring out the main things you need to know to successfully communicate with dementia patients. The sad thing is that it could probably be boiled down to a few bullet points, but I had to learn them by trial and error over the years, which led to a lot of frustration for both me and my husband.

Friends would call and say they're nervous to visit because they're worried they'll upset him or don't know how to talk with him anymore. If friends who have known him a long time feel this way, imagine how a court-appointed guardian feels. They'd could be nervous or even scared to take on a dementia patient because of the unknown.

I strongly believe a short, to-the-point training could put these guardians much more at ease and ready to take on a dementia patient. It would ease communication between them and lessen frustration for both. I know some worry that adding more training to being a Court Appointed Guardian might discourage people from becoming guardians, but I believe this would do the opposite — it would encourage them because they would feel much more prepared for the job. The fear of the unknown could keep people from wanting to be a Guardian while this training would shine a light on this unknown. I urge you to support this bill. Thank you