

Office of the State Long-Term Care
Ombudsman
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Haely Ordoyne, State Ombudsman

Laura Kelly, Governor

Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
February 10th, 2025

Testimony given by:
Haely Ordoyne, SLTCO
State Long Term Care Ombudsman

Senator Gossage and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share the experiences of the state Long Term Care Ombudsman program.

The state long term care Ombudsman program is a federal program where we are resident directed advocates. We ensure civil and human rights and the overall well-being of people who reside in an adult care home. Our program gives a voice to those who might otherwise go unheard. Ombudsmen investigate and resolve complaints, educate residents, facility staff, and the community, advocate for policy changes, regularly visit facilities to monitor conditions and be accessible to residents, and are trained to resolve problems and work to ensure that residents' wishes are at the center of any resolution.

We do have two concerns related to SB 88.

1. Recommendation of the amended language change to
(3) ***the needs and rights of long-term care residents who have Alzheimer's disease and other dementia and strategies to care for and address the specific issues encountered by such residents.***
2. This training would be in addition to the federally required training of 36 hours for initial certification that already includes Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.
https://ltcombudsman.org/uploads/files/support/2019_LTCOP_Training_Standards.pdf

For these reasons, our office would support the recommendation of training related to Alzheimer's and other related dementias with the proposed language change and considerations. We believe that this would best align with our mission and values of preserving all resident rights.

Sincerely,

Haely Ordoyne

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