

**AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE COMMITTEE  
FROM THE STATE LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN**

**Belinda Vierthaler, MSW**

**February 15, 2011**

Representative Bob Bethell, Committee Chair and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

The Ombudsman program supports the advisory committee for the in home Ombudsman. At this time, an advisory committee would be a good idea to study what other states have done and to look at a pilot program. We have several people already interested in being members. We have also discussed the committee with Dr. Chapin at the KU School of Social Welfare, Office of Aging and LTC. They are interested in working on a research project with us, once we find some funding.

It is not financially feasible to start an in home Ombudsman program at this time. We would need at least a mirror image of our Long-Term Care Ombudsman program. This would have a fiscal note of at least \$750,000. We also cannot add any additional responsibilities to our Regional LTC Ombudsman.

HOUSE AGING & LTC  
DATE: 2/15/11  
ATTACHMENT # 4