



STATE SENATOR
CHARLETA B. TAVARES

15TH DISTRICT

*****Press Release*****

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Contact: Nicole Harper

(614) 466-5131

Tavares and Schiavoni Introduce Legislation to Expand Long-Term Care Options

Senate Bill 87 saves money and gives Ohioans more choices

Columbus – Senators Charleta B. Tavares (D-Columbus) and Joseph Schiavoni (D-Canfield) have jointly sponsored Senate Bill 87 which will expand long-term health care options for thousands of Ohioans. The bill provides an opportunity for individuals who are in nursing home facilities to select home and community-based treatment as alternatives. The legislation will also reduce the state’s nursing home care expenses.

The bill consists of recommendations offered by the Unified Long-Term Care System (ULTCS) Workgroup. The recommendations were included in a report released by the Department of Aging.

“This common sense legislation will empower seniors with the freedom and choice to remain in their homes whenever possible,” said Senator Schiavoni. “I am happy to team with Senator Tavares to implement the ULTCS recommendations that are vital to the quality of life of seniors and balancing Ohio’s budget.”

“This legislation adopts the recommendations of the experts who looked at cost, efficiency and most importantly improved outcomes for the residents of Ohio,” said Senator Tavares. “We are giving older adults what they have asked for – patient-centered care, choice and independence.”

A few key provisions in the bill relative to expanding eligibility include:

- Extending Home First concepts of imminent risk of nursing facility placement to the Ohio Home Care waiver to prevent individuals from entering nursing homes unnecessarily.
- Supporting individuals with severe and persistent mental illness to relocate from nursing facilities to community settings and to be supported by the assistance of Medicaid and non-Medicaid services in those settings.
- Establishing a pilot project modeled after the Money Follows the Person (MFP) initiative that would also allow consumers with severe mental illness

living in nursing facilities to move into the community.

In addition to expanding long-term care options, other measures in the bill focus on improving services as well as, providing access to resources that are needed for individuals transitioning to home and community-based care.