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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding the hearing on January 25th, **Assisted Living Facilities: Understanding Long-Term Care Options for Older Adults**. I am writing on behalf of the Ohio Health Care Association (OHCA) and specifically referencing the state of Ohio's requirements.

Ohio has numerous requirements for assisted living communities. In Ohio, these entities are called Residential Care Facilities and are licensed under OAC 3701-16. OHCA and our members support transparency from the top down and consider this necessary for informed decision-making. This is important for the residents and families of those residents, but it is also important for the operators to receive this same transparency from the regulating agencies.

The state of Ohio has family and resident surveys done biannually through the Ohio Department of Aging, which can aid residents and families in selecting their care providers. The specific admission agreement, which is extensive, is regulated through OAC 3701-16-07. This agreement includes providing the residents their Ohio Resident's Rights as defined in ORC 3721.12. The agreement must be signed and dated by the operator, administrator, or acting administrator and the prospective resident or, if the prospective resident is physically or cognitively unable to sign and consents, another individual designated by the prospective resident. The facility must provide the prospective resident and any other individual signing on the resident's behalf with a copy of the agreement and explain it to them. These requirements are regularly surveyed for compliance during the licensure surveys performed by the Ohio Department of Health.

We need to ensure we are not reducing resident choice by continuing to push further regulations onto an industry that is mostly private pay. Regulations should be the minimum standard. Every additional requirement overburdens an industry drowning from a lack of staffing. Initiatives to incentivize individuals to go into healthcare-related fields are needed.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mandy Smith  
Regulatory Director, OHCA