



Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging  
*Advocacy. Action. Answers on Aging.*

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## **Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging: Response to Am. Sub. Bill 166**

The Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging is the nonprofit, statewide network of agencies mandated by the Older Americans Act and charged with helping Americans thrive in our homes and communities as we age. Our members are mission-driven primarily not-for-profit organizations that operate a complex service delivery system that provides access to community-based, in-home and elder rights services to older Ohioans and people with disabilities. We work with public and private partners to provide the right supports to promote independence and healthy aging.

We are all aging and we are living longer, mostly healthier lives. Strong social supports must be available so that we can all continue to be engaged, connected participants in our communities no matter our age or abilities.

“We appreciate the increased state investment in supports for older Ohioans and people with disabilities in this state budget. It’s time to look to the future and where we are in terms of being ready to support our population as we age,” says Larke Recchie, Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging’s CEO.

“We applaud the General Assembly for enacting a state budget that makes increased investments that promote opportunities for older Ohioans and people with disabilities to live healthy, engaged, and secure lives in our homes and communities.”

The increased investments include the Senior Community Services program, long term care ombudsman program, adult protective services, personal care services, and home-delivered meals. “These investments will break down the barriers to achieving dignity, self-determination, and quality of life for all of us as we age, and for those of us with disabilities, in our State,” says Recchie.

“No matter our age or abilities, we are entitled to be treated as full members of our communities. We understand that our state has many priorities that must be met. It is time for Ohio to look toward the future as an ‘age-friendly’ state. This state budget puts us in the right direction,” says Duana Patton, President, Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging and CEO, Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging.

Ohio has the 6th largest population age 65 or older in the nation, and our ranks will continue to grow. By 2030, Ohio’s population age 65 and older will increase by 40% compared to 2015.