

**Testimony**  
**House Bill 1109– Department of Human Services**  
**House Human Services Committee**  
**Representative Robin Weisz, Chairman**  
**January 7, 2015**

Chairman Weisz, and members of the House Human Services Committee, I am Karla Backman, State Long Term Care Ombudsman with the Department of Human Services (Department), Aging Services Division. I am here today in support of House Bill 1109. This bill was introduced at the request of the Department.

The amendment to subsection 1 of 50-10.2-02 is to ensure all the exceptions are numbered; there is no change to intent or content.

The Bill also proposes to remove subsection 4 of 50-10.2-02. With the ongoing development and presence of the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program this section has become redundant. Local ombudsmen are assigned to each facility and they visit regularly to meet with the residents and family members about their concerns and issues especially as they relate to residents' rights. The local ombudsmen also provide consultation services to facility personnel regarding residents' rights. The Department retains documentation in a central database of all concerns and issues addressed by the local ombudsmen. Facilities also have resident councils that give voice to the residents regarding concerns within the facility.

This concludes my testimony. I will address questions you may have. Thank you.