



Chairman Cupp, Vice Chairman Carfagna, Ranking Member Ashford, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on House Bill 247 (HB 247). My name is Trey Addison and I am the Director of State Government Affairs for AARP Ohio. I am testifying on behalf of AARP Ohio, which has 1.5 million members in the state. AARP Ohio supports HB 247 because it would create a level playing field for consumers throughout Ohio.

AARP Ohio supports HB 247 because it would allow refunds to customers for all charges that are later found improper by the Supreme Court of Ohio or other authorities, it would eliminate language in Ohio that permits utility companies to file ESP's which would eliminate above-market charges to consumers that are now allowed in ESP's, and the legislation would protect consumers from subsidizing the operations of utility corporate affiliates.

We also see the merit in HB 247 helping the most vulnerable seniors in Ohio. As you all know, Ohio is an aging State. With more boomers headed to retirement, and on a fixed income, we must keep utility bills in check. AARP Ohio has fought for all consumers to live their best life in retirement, and by supporting HB 247, we know this is a fight our 1.5 million members will be up to having.

The solutions in HB 247 are sound, and there is no reason why any group who is supportive of their customers, the consumer, or their constituent would be against this legislation.

Thank you,

Trey Addison

AARP Ohio Director of State Government Affairs