

**Rep. Yuko, House Committee Approve “Pain Awareness Month”**  
*House Bill 245 awaiting full vote of the House*

COLUMBUS – State Representative Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Heights) and the House Health and Aging Committee this week approved a measure to designate September as “Pain Awareness Month” in Ohio. The legislation, House Bill 245, is sponsored by Rep. Yuko and seeks to bring awareness to the issue of chronic pain that affects countless Ohioans. It was approved unanimously by the committee, 19-0.

“This kind of pain plagues more people than diabetes, heart disease, and cancer *combined*,” said Rep. Yuko. “I have heard from many people in our community who feel that this issue is underrepresented, and I could not agree more. It is my hope that this bill will make the people of Ohio aware of this debilitating condition and will allow us, as legislators and as citizens, to reflect on how to become better advocates for those affected.”

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, one in four people report that they have had a problem with pain that persisted for more than 24 hours. This type of persistent pain is common for people who suffer from diseases such as multiple sclerosis, Parkinson’s disease and sickle-cell disease. It is estimated that undertreated and misdiagnosed chronic pain costs the U.S. economy as much as \$100 billion annually in medical expenses and lost workdays.

The bill now awaits a vote by the full Ohio House of Representatives.