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**Representative Yuko Named “Legislator of the Year” by OAMES**

*Honored for his efforts on House Bill 499*

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Association of Medical Equipment Services (OAMES) gave their “Legislator of the Year” award to State Rep. Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Heights) for his support on addressing unintended complications related to the bundling of Nursing Home services in House Bill 1.

A provision in House Bill 1 bundled together services such as resident transportation, wheelchairs, oxygen, over-the-counter drugs, and occupational/speech therapy and gave funding for those services to nursing facilities on a per diem, per patient basis instead of directly to the service providers who were previously paid on a fee-for-service basis

Rep. Yuko is the sponsor of House Bill 499, which seeks to remove these services from the provision and incorporate certain prescription drugs instead.

“Since the bundling went into effect I have heard from numerous service providers and patients.” Rep Yuko said. “Businesses who provide these services are suffering and patients aren’t getting the care that they need. House Bill 499 can help restore critical services to our neediest citizens and keep people in the support and provider industries employed. It’s a win-win situation for everyone.”

The Ohio Association of Medical Equipment Services is the professional organization representing home medical equipment providers in Ohio. They presented the award to Rep. Yuko at their annual conference in Columbus.