



OHIO PODIATRIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, DBA
OHIO FOOT AND ANKLE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
1960 BETHEL ROAD, SUITE 140 • COLUMBUS, OHIO 43220-1815
614-457-6269 • WWW.OHFAMA.ORG

THOMAS MCCABE, DPM, PRESIDENT

ANIMESH BHATIA, DPM, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

TODD LOFTUS, DPM, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

ALAN BLOCK, DPM, SECRETARY/TREASURER

RICHARD SCHILLING, DPM, IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

JIMELLE RUMBERG, PHD, CAE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May 29, 2017

The Honorable Louis Blessing, III
Chairman, House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee
77 High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: HB 145 – Establish confidential program to treat impaired practitioners

Dear Chairman Blessing:

On behalf of the 1,100 Ohio podiatric physicians, medical residents and podiatric medical students at Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine, the Ohio Foot and Ankle Medical Association (OHFAMA) would like to affirm our support of HB 145. The purpose of this legislation is to encourage more physicians, through a confidential reporting program for impaired practitioners, to safely seek out proper care to recover from substance abuse via a one-time allowance known as “one bite”.

The Medical Association Coalition (MAC), of which OHFAMA is a member, worked in collaboration with the State Medical Board for well-over 18 months to reach consensus on details to develop a comprehensive treatment program for Ohio’s physicians. HB 145 develops a safe protocol for physicians to seek substance abuse treatment while maintaining their protection and anonymity on a first-time (one bite) basis for impairment. The State Medical Board along with a contracted third-party treatment and monitoring provider will administer the program to rehabilitate impaired practitioners. As you realize, the bill rightfully provides for the highest standards in terms of support networks, counseling and monitoring over a five-year period. It includes adequate regulation and public safeguards while offering a means for an impaired physician to seek treatment and recover from addiction.

Lastly, we appreciate Representatives Huffman and Sprague’s efforts as well as many organizations who have contributed to this legislation. HB 145 is a legislative priority for the OHFAMA and we would greatly appreciate the committee’s full support of HB 145.

Respectfully,

Thomas J. McCabe, DPM
President

cc: Members of the OH House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee