

Representative Kristina Roegner, Chair  
The Ohio House of Representatives  
Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee  
February 13, 2018

Testimony of Andrew Schames, M.D. in support of House Resolution  
74

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of House Resolution 74. I am a physician who lives and practices in Columbus, Ohio. I have read the written testimony of one of our members, Ellen Greene Bush, and wholeheartedly agree with her reasoning as a proponent of this resolution. In my practice, I see patients from a wide range of social environments. I have some patients who are very wealthy, and have the best insurance; and I see some who have Medicaid or no insurance at all. As far as I'm concerned, they are all people. They all deserve the best possible care I can give them. I make my decisions based on solid evidence that tells me what treatment will be best for the patient, regardless of how much the patient or his insurance is paying for the consultation.

I like to think that my lawmakers do essentially the same thing: that they evaluate, based on the best facts available, what law or policy will lead to the greatest benefit for all their constituents, and for the state and the nation.

However, I fear that money has come to have too great an influence in politics. Somehow, many of our politicians seem to have lost their focus on the best interests of their constituents, and are working instead for the interests of their large contributors. I think the tax bill passed in December by the federal legislature is a good example of politicians catering to wealthy interests rather than to working Americans. I also think that the influence of a few very large donors has diverted us from responding effectively to the very real threat posed by climate change. A generation from now, we may deeply regret the shortsightedness of the decisions we are making now.

To allow political leaders to make wise and responsible decisions, I feel we need to reduce the influence of money in politics, and the disproportionate influence of large donors on the left and the right.

Thus, I support a vote in favor of the proposed 28th amendment, which will help to restore fairness and the primacy of the public interest to the political process in America.

Yours,

Andrew Schames, M.D.  
46 Northmoor Place  
Columbus, OH 43214  
Phone 614-653-6408