



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

Re: HB 145 – Confidential Treatment

Dear Chairman Blessing:

As president of the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio (AMCNO), a regional organization representing more than 5,000 physicians, residents and medical students in Northern Ohio, I am writing today to express our support of HB 145 – Confidential Treatment.

HB 145 creates a confidential reporting program for treating impaired physicians and other healthcare practitioners in Ohio. The bill establishes a new “one-bite” program which gives the State Medical Board of Ohio (SMBO) and a qualified monitoring program the ability to oversee the rehabilitation of impaired practitioners. The “one-bite” concept provides a one-time exception through which an impaired physician may avoid SMBO intervention to seek treatment for substance abuse or physical or mental impairments.

HB 145 will require confidential reporting by all peers and treatment centers to a monitoring organization conducting the confidential program. The monitoring organization must meet specific criteria and participants in the program must also meet specific criteria in order to qualify for participation in the one-bite program.

The AMCNO supports this legislation which will strengthen the one-bite program and allow physicians to enter into a system where they can get the care they need and return to their practice healthy and able to provide care to their patients. We urge support of HB 145.

Sincerely,

Fred Jorgensen, MD
AMCNO President

cc: Members of the Ohio Government Accountability and Oversight Committee

The Voice of Physicians in Northern Ohio