



February 27, 2018

The Honorable Louis W. Blessing III  
Chairman, Government Accountability and Oversight Committee  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 S. High St., 13th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

**RE: House Bill 450 – OMA Proponent Written Testimony**

Dear Chairman Blessing:

The OMA has historically opposed health insurance-related mandates because they increase cost and limit flexibility for employers that seek to provide health care plans to their employees. Our position has been to allow the market, not the government, to drive the features and benefits of health care insurance products. With the passage of the Affordable Healthcare Act and increased mandates from both Washington and Columbus, employee health insurance plans are straining the employers who offer them due to high and escalating costs.

The OMA supports House Bill 450 as an effort toward reining in newly proposed state health care mandates. This bill takes several proactive steps to address the issue of costly new mandates.

First, it prohibits the enactment of future mandated benefits unless qualifying conditions are met. This means that only the most relevant mandates will be allowed in the future.

Second, requiring the Superintendent of Insurance to conduct an actuarial study on the cost of existing mandated health insurance benefits and compiling a list of all existing mandates will help determine the true costs of these mandates on manufacturers and all Ohio employers.

Finally the creation of the Health Care Mandated Benefits Review Committee, which will have responsibility for reviewing and reporting on existing mandated benefits, will provide data to help inform the financial consequences of mandates on the populations that fund them.

We thank Representative Antani for his sponsorship and would be happy to work with the committee to address any questions the members may have.

An affordable health care system is essential to protect Ohio manufacturers' most valuable asset, their workforces. This proposed legislation would help monitor and

check the ever increasing burden on manufacturers and employers regarding health insurance flexibility and cost transparency.

For these reasons, we urge your support for House Bill 450.

Thank you for considering our position. I am available for further discussion. My contact information is [rbrundrett@ohiomfg.com](mailto:rbrundrett@ohiomfg.com) or (614) 629-6814.

Sincerely,



Robert Brundrett

Director, Public Policy Services