



May 22, 2018

The Honorable Steve Huffman
Chair, House Health Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High St.
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chair Huffman,

On behalf of the nearly 8,000 members of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, I would like to express our opposition to House Bill 546, legislation that would require health plans to provide coverage for telemedicine services on the same basis and to the same extent as a plan provides coverage for in-person health services.

This new health care coverage mandate is essentially the same mandate that was included last year in the House-passed version of House Bill 49, the state budget bill. The budget language was likewise opposed by the Ohio Chamber. It was ultimately removed from HB 49 by the Ohio Senate.

The Ohio Chamber and the many businesses we represent that voluntarily provide health care insurance to their employees and their dependents have longstanding concerns with any legislation that would mandate coverage for specific health services, as HB 546 does. I would be happy to submit copies of the opponent testimonies we have delivered over the past few years on numerous other proposed health insurance mandates if you would like to better understand our general concerns about one-size-fits-all mandates.

In addition to our longstanding concerns about mandates, I would also like to remind you that HB 463, legislation enacted during the 131st General Assembly, includes a commitment by the legislature not to impose any new health insurance mandates for a two-year period. Presently, we are just past the halfway mark on this this two-year moratorium.

So far, the General Assembly has kept its word in this regard. We urge you to continue to honor this commitment, and we urge opposition to HB 546. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Lake". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Keith Lake
Vice President, Government Affairs

cc: Members of the House Health Committee