

To: Members of the Ohio House Ways and Means Committee

Fr: Tim Maglione, JD, Senior Director, Ohio State Medical Association  
Monica Hueckel, Director, Ohio State Medical Association

Da: November 14, 2017

Re: HB 317 – Allow tax deduction to physician providing free services

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On behalf of the 12,000 physician, resident and medical student members of the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA), our organization **is writing in support of House Bill 317.**

HB 317 proposes a six-year tax deduction period for physicians providing uncompensated medical care. Ohio physicians would be eligible for a personal tax deduction per hour of uncompensated medical care provided, capped at a certain amount. Not only would this incentivize the physicians already performing this key work to keep Ohioans healthy, but it is likely to encourage more participation when implemented.

We commend the sponsor, Rep. Young, for his effort to show appreciation and recognition for the thousands of Ohio physicians giving their time to help serve those in need, who may not have the financial means to pay for their medical care. This includes treatment for acute illness or injury as well as essential treatment for chronic conditions. Last year alone, almost 2,000 Ohio physicians volunteered a total of about 35,000 hours of free care to those in need.

We are pleased to support this legislation and believe that this initiative could serve to help lower-income Ohioans receive needed care more quickly and efficiently. In turn, Ohioans in these financial circumstances may less frequently require serious medical care, due to increased ability to seek treatment before health issues may become more critical.

The OSMA appreciates the opportunity to be meaningful contributors to the legislative process. Please contact us with any questions you may have.