



State Representative Scott Lipps

Sponsor Testimony – House Bill 102

Chairman Merrin, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Boyd, and members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 102.

Chiropractic care is widely-recognized as one of the safest, drug-free, non-invasive treatments for conditions such as back and neck pain. Chiropractic methods can solve the root cause of pain, instead of masking the pain and risking dependency on opioids. One in six Medicaid recipients in Ohio between 2016 and 2017 received an opioid prescription. The hope for this bill is to offer an alternative to opioids and curb addiction related to the opioid crisis. One study from Dartmouth College found that adults receiving chiropractic services were 55% less likely to fill a prescription for opioids.

The bill seeks to require the State Medicaid Program to cover all services provided by a licensed chiropractor acting within the scope of his or her practice. Currently, coverage is limited to treatment of a diagnosed subluxation, diagnostic imaging to determine subluxation, and acupuncture for the treatment of migraine and low back pain. Patients are also limited in the

number of outpatient treatments they can receive per year unless a physician has given prior authorization for chiropractic care.

This bill will also protect chiropractors, by requiring that Medicaid reimburse them at the same rate as other physicians. This will encourage more chiropractors to accept Medicaid patients and give Ohioans receiving Medicaid more options.

Medicaid patients who are denied chiropractic care often seek out more expensive treatments, such as surgeries or prescription medications, which are covered under their plan. By ensuring coverage of all chiropractic services, Ohio could realize savings as patients substitute chiropractic services in place of more expensive treatments. According to an analysis done by the Ohio State Chiropractor Association, Ohio Medicaid could save approximately \$18 million to \$23 million per year by simply covering more chiropractic services. The State of Missouri's Committee on Legislative Research found that if enacted, HB 1516 would save the state \$5.807 million in FY 2020 and \$6.181 million in FY 2021 by calculating the use of chiropractic services in lieu of prescribing opioids for pain as well as back surgeries, which would reduce the costs for hospital, pharmacy and physician services. House Bill 102 is modeled off of Missouri's HB 1516. HB 1516 later went on to pass the Missouri House and Senate almost unanimously and was signed into law last year.

Additionally, there are at least eight other states that reimburse chiropractors for more services than what Ohio does. Specifically, states like West Virginia and Indiana reimburse chiropractors for their full scope of practice including services such as modalities, exams and therapies.

With Ohio among the top 5 states with the highest rates of opioid related overdose death, it is time we tackle this crisis by offering alternatives to prescription opioids. In 2015, there were 85.5 prescriptions for every 100 Ohioans, resulting in 9.96 million opioid prescriptions in just one calendar year.

We need to reduce the amount of opioids being prescribed, we need to reduce the amount of patients turning to opioids for a permanent fix and we need to turn to a more permanent solution that doesn't result in a state wide crisis. I am hopeful that this bill offering an alternative solution to pain management can accomplish that.

I thank you for your consideration of HB 102 and would be happy to take any questions at this time.