



**State Representative Erica C. Crawley
Ohio House District 26
House Bill 534 Sponsor Testimony (as prepared)**

Chairman Brinkman, Vice-Chair Antani, Ranking Member Boggs, and members of the House Insurance Committee, thank you for the opportunity for Representative Upchurch and I to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 534, which addresses identifying information in the medical management system of workers' compensation claims.

The purpose of HB 534 is straightforward. This bill requires the administrator of Workers' Compensation to adopt rules prohibiting using a healthcare provider's Social Security number as a means of identifying the provider for purposes of the Health Partnership Program (HPP) or Qualified Health Program (QHP) system. This bill also requires a managed care organization (MCO), as a condition of participating in the Health Partnership Program, to maintain a recordkeeping system that identifies staff and providers by first and last name when creating a record related to a workers' compensation claim.

As we all know our social security numbers are the keys to our lives. There is little question as to why using a providers social security number as a means to identify claims within HPP and QHP presents a problem. I am sure we all are familiar with social security numbers being compromised due to a breach in data systems like Target and Equifax. On the provider enrollment page for these two plans, BWC highlights the important role of the medical community, in their efforts to provide benefits to Ohio's injured workers. To have their personal social security number incorporated in a provider identification number is a misuse of the social security number and can destroy the trust of providers in BWC's ability to protect their information. Moreover, some providers just may not feel comfortable having their social security number being used, especially if there is a possibility of using other identifiers. Therefore, we must make the necessary changes to correct this problem. Thank you again for the opportunity to speak on behalf of this legislation, and at this time Representative Upchurch and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

¹ Understanding the Provider Network. (n.d.).