



Eric S. Richmond
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Proponent Testimony on House Bill 203
Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee

Chairman Burke, Vice Chairman Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present proponent testimony on HB 203 today. My name is Eric Richmond, and I am the Director of Legal and Legislative services for the Ohio Dental Association. As you may know, the ODA is the professional association of dentists in Ohio. We represent 70% of Ohio's practicing dentists with more than 5,000 member dentists across the state.

House bill 203 makes necessary changes to the law to enhance the operation of mobile dental facilities (MDFs) in Ohio. MDFs are a great way to increase access to care for populations of Ohio in need of dental services. However, currently there is no database of MDFs, which makes it nearly impossible to track them throughout the state. Further, no formal guidance exists on the helpful transfer of medical records from a MDF to a traditional dental office for follow up care.

This legislation would require a dentist to list any MDF on their e-license filing that they are required to complete each year. Further, the legislation would make it mandatory for MDFs to inform all patients that they can obtain their dental records from the facility. This legislation will enhance the oral healthcare of the populations utilizing the MDFs.

The care of a patient is paramount in the dental community. This bill will ensure that the highest level of care is given to the patients that enter the MDFs. By allowing for better communication between the MDFs and the patients, and between the MDFs and the follow up dentists, it will ensure that each patient is treated with their best oral healthcare in mind. Further, this legislation will allow for the dental board to track these MDF and ensure that the communities they are visiting are aware of the MDF, creating more opportunity for community members to take advantage of the dental services being provided.

The Ohio Dental Association is a participating member in the Oral Health Ohio coalition and we are happy to work with the coalition on this legislation. The coalition does a great job of gathering the ideas of the oral health community and moving those ideas forward in collaborative way.

Overall, this bill will increase access to oral healthcare for Ohioans and ensure that the care being provided is done in a consistent manner. This will ensure easier access to more cost efficient oral healthcare for those populations who need it most. Thank you again for allowing me to present today. The Ohio Dental Association supports this bill and we look forward to the success that will come from this legislation.