



HB 412 Proponent Testimony to the Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid Committee

Chairman Burke, Vice Chairman Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio:

I am writing today on behalf the osteopathic physicians and students of the Ohio Osteopathic Association to express support for HB 412, which would establish the Rare Disease Advisory Council.

The Ohio Osteopathic Association (OOA) represents approximately 5,000 actively practicing osteopathic physicians (DOs) in the state of Ohio and more than 1,000 osteopathic medical students. DOs represent about 1 in 6 of the total physicians practicing in Ohio and more than a quarter of the state's family physicians. Osteopathic physicians approach wellness through a comprehensive approach that recognizes the person is a unit of body, mind, and spirit.

Almost 1 in 10 Americans have a rare disease and more than 90 percent of rare diseases have no FDA-approved treatment. Rare diseases are present across a broad spectrum of medical conditions. For example, all forms of pediatric cancer are considered rare, as are brain, pancreatic, ovarian, thyroid, and stomach cancers. Other examples include lysosomal storage diseases, blood disorders, eye diseases, and autoimmune disorders.

The Rare Disease Advisory Council would provide dedicated focus on often underrepresented health issues from a broad array of stakeholders that can ultimately improve Ohio's health care system. The Council would promote collaboration between health care providers and organizations, research institutions, and policymakers while also generating much-needed awareness of rare diseases.

We strongly encourage your support of HB 412. Thank you to the Senate Health Committee for its consideration.

Matt Harney
Executive Director
Ohio Osteopathic Association