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November 27, 2017

Members, House Health Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 4,900 family physician, family medicine resident and medical student members of the Ohio Academy of Family Physicians, I write to express our continued concern with and opposition to Sub. House Bill 131, a proposal which substantially expands the scope of physical therapists in Ohio.

Specific to the changes made in the substitute version of the bill, our concerns relate to patient safety as the imaging education and training of a physical therapist, even in a doctorate program, are not sufficient. Additionally, the continuing education option created by the PT licensing board and approved by the PT association, is unspecific as to scope and content. Therefore, there are no guarantees that the education programs would be robust enough to provide the appropriate level of training to order X-rays.

We also feel strongly that any PT statute should retain language that clearly states that physical therapy does not include a medical diagnosis.

If the major premise behind the bill is truly providing PTs with better opportunities to bill health insurers for physical therapy services, we are willing to work on that issue. We remain opposed, however, to substantially expanding the scope of physical therapists as the means for addressing billing issues.

The substitute bill does not adequately address concerns previously stated by the medical community and we ask that you not support this legislation when it comes up for a House Health Committee vote, potentially as soon as November 29, 2017.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Donald O. Mack, MD
President