

**Bruce D. Grbach D.D.S.**

**Dental Wellness Center**

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**To: Ohio House Ways and Means Committee From: Bruce D. Grbach, DDS**

**Date: November 14, 2017**

**Re: House Bill 317 Proponent Testimony**

Chairman Schaffer,

I am a general dentist that has been practicing dentistry in Mentor, Ohio for over twenty-two years and I thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of AM0566x1, which would make dentists that provide uncompensated dental care eligible for a personal income tax deduction.

Ohio's dentists are committed to improving oral health in Ohio and we routinely volunteer our time and expertise to provide dental care for free or at reduced cost to those without adequate access. This legislation and AM0566x1 provides added incentive to care for the poor and serves as recognition of our efforts in donating our time and services.

I support the inclusion of AM0566x1 into House Bill 317 because it promotes expanded access to dental services for people in our state. Dental care remains the number one unmet health care need for Ohio's children and low-income adults. Racial and ethnic minority adults, those from low-income households and those without private dental insurance are less likely to have a recent dental visit than others. House Bill 317 is an opportunity to reach more Ohioans and service their unmet oral health needs. This initiative will help those without means achieve better oral health and thus decrease the need for more serious medical care among this population.

I thank Representative Ron Young for supporting AM0566x1 and urge the House Ways and Means Committee to accept amendment AM0566x1 and, with the its inclusion, favorably pass House Bill 317.

Sincerely,

Bruce D. Grbach DDS