



**Representative Stephen A. Huffman**  
**80th House District**

House Bill 145 Sponsor Testimony

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Chairman Burke, Vice-Chair Beagle, Ranking Member Tavares, and members of the Senate Health, Human Services, and Medicaid committee, Thank you for allowing me to testify today on House Bill 145.

This bill will create an updated confidential reporting program for treating impaired practitioners in Ohio. The current reporting system requires the majority of medical practitioners to report substance abuse by peers to the State Medical Board. This requirement has created an environment where peers are hesitant to report colleagues because doing so could potentially result in disciplinary action by the Medical Board, and may strip individuals of their license to practice.

The goal of reporting practitioners should be to get them properly treated, so that they can return to practicing medicine. House Bill 145 will do just that by creating a system where practitioners will have a safe opportunity to get the help that they need. House Bill 145 creates a new and improved “one-bite” program, while still allowing the State Medical Board and monitoring providers to properly oversee the rehabilitation of impaired practitioners (which includes but is not limited to physicians, including medical doctors, osteopaths, anesthesiology assistants, and physician assistants).

A practitioner is eligible to participate in One-Bite if they have not been previously sanctioned (unless referred to the program by the state medical board), and have not previously participated in the program. The State Medical Board will contract with both a third party treatment and monitoring provider to administer the program.

While in the program, participants are required to suspend practice and must comply with all terms and conditions for successful completion. In order to formally complete the program and be granted authority to resume practice, participants must receive consent from the treatment and monitoring provider. Once the individual has completed the program, both the treatment and

monitoring provider will continue to monitor the individual for a period agreed upon by the State Medical Board and providers.

We have received insight and feedback from numerous interested parties, including the Ohio State Medical Association, the State Medical Board and others, to ensure that the legislative changes in H.B. 145 are appropriate and enforceable. The purpose of this legislation is to strengthen “one bite” in such a way that will encourage more physicians to seek out care and successfully recover from addiction. H.B. 145 passed unanimously out of the House Health committee and received bi-partisan, favorable passage on the House floor. Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions you have at this time.