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Scott Lipps
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Committees

Federalism, Vice Chair
House Finance Committee
Finance Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Development, and
Natural Resources

Sponsor Testimony on HB 196
The Ohio Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee

Thank you Chair Burke, Vice Chair Beagle, Ranking Member Tavares and members of the Ohio Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to speak regarding House Bill 196. This legislation would designate October as “Ohio Chiropractic Awareness Month.”

Chiropractic, with a wide brush, is a natural, hands-on approach to health care that precludes the use of drugs and surgery to treat patients suffering from neuromusculoskeletal issues. Generally, chiropractors treat these complaints through spinal realignment to alleviate pain, individually-designed exercise programs and healthy lifestyle plans (classes, seminars, vitamins, etc). There are currently 2,497 licensed Chiropractors in Ohio and 10,000 chiropractic students in 18 nationally accredited doctoral programs in the United States. One example of how chiropractic may differ from traditional medical care is...when a patient first sees a surgeon for back pain, 42.7% of those patients eventually have surgery; only 1.5% of those patients go on to surgery after first seeing a chiropractor. This leads to a 40% savings on healthcare and RARELY requires a prescription for pain medication.

The education and licensing requirements for chiropractors is on par with allopathic and osteopathic medical schools. And, chiropractors are designated as physician-level providers. During our current opioid epidemic, I feel that it is essential that we invite chiropractors to the table in our discussions to help solve this crisis. As chiropractic is all natural, chiropractors do not prescribe painkillers to treat pain. As various studies have shown, and as I can attest to as a long-time chiropractic patient, chiropractic could be an excellent first choice to treat those in pain before advising the prescription of addictive pain killers.

I thank the committee for their time and consideration and would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.