



**OHIO COUNCIL**  
FOR HOME CARE & HOSPICE

**Proponent Testimony for Sub. House Bill 606 (Grendell)**

**Ohio Council for Home Care & Hospice**

*Joe Russell, Executive Director*

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Chairman Hambley, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Member Brown and members of the House Civil Justice Committee. My name is Joe Russell and I am the Executive Director at the Ohio Council for Home Care and Hospice (OCHCH). Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Sub. House Bill 606.

The Ohio Council for Home Care and Hospice (OCHCH) represents over 600 home care, hospice, and palliative care agencies across the state of Ohio. Our members care for a variety of individuals ranging from medically fragile children, those who wish to recover at home from elective surgeries, mental health and addiction services, older Ohioans that wish to age in place, and many more.

Our healthcare providers are fighting the COVID-19 war on the front lines every day. These providers have stepped up to combat COVID-19 by being a *solution* during this unprecedented time. Our members have been providing care to COVID-19 patients and other patients with enhanced conditions to keep people safe in their homes and to assist in freeing up hospital bed capacity. As a natural byproduct of these efforts, providers have put their business, employees, patients, and family members at risk by taking care of COVID-19 patients. Why? Because this is what they have been called to do.

Providers' number one priority is to keep Ohio's most vulnerable patients safe and cared for in their home. We will continue to fight the war to help ensure that patients receive the care that they need, no matter the circumstance. The passage of this bill would help alleviate the burden of having to worry about facing unnecessary and costly civil lawsuits for these front line providers and allow them to focus on patient care. Our heroes should not be penalized in this trying time by creative attorneys trying to make a quick buck.

I would like to commend Representative Grendell for introducing this important piece of legislation. We urge your support to keep frontline providers immune from civil liability during this emergency period. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Sub. House Bill 606. Please contact me at [joe@ochch.org](mailto:joe@ochch.org) or 614-885-0434 ext. 208 should any questions arise.