



May 20, 2020

The Honorable Stephen Hambley
Chairman
House Civil Justice Committee
Ohio House
77 S. High St
11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: House Bill 606 – Grant immunity to essential workers who transmit COVID-19

Dear Chairman Hambley:

As President of the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio (AMCNO), an organization representing more than 5,000 physician, resident and medical student members in Northern Ohio, I am writing on behalf of the organization and our members to voice our support for House Bill 606 – a bill that would address liability of healthcare and service providers during an emergency.

As the coronavirus outbreak continues in Ohio, our frontline healthcare professionals are straining under an increasingly difficult burden, and the issue of pandemic-related lawsuits is of great concern to physicians and hospitals alike. The expanded liability protections for physicians and other healthcare workers outlined in this bill would certainly help to alleviate this concern.

Healthcare professionals and facilities will always make every effort to provide the best care possible to their patients. During an emergency situation such as the COVID-19 pandemic, it only makes sense to protect clinicians by limiting the threat of liability so that they can make critical decisions based on not what choice will be least likely to result in a lawsuit, but on which choice does the broadest possible good for the communities in which they serve.

This bill is of utmost importance to our members and to the entire medical community, and we ask that Ohio's healthcare providers be protected. We support HB 606 and we thank you for considering our comments on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Collins, MD
AMCNO President

Cc: Members of the House Civil Justice Committee