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House Health Committee

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Chairman Merrin, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Boyd and members of the House Health Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide proponent testimony today on House Bill 203. My name is Marla Morse and I am the Program Coordinator for Oral Health Ohio.

Oral Health Ohio is focused on improving the oral health of Ohio's children and families through advocacy, education and program coordination. Our work's impact means greater knowledge to create better policies, more access to oral health care and a renewed perspective of how oral health affects both overall health as well as our communities' prosperity.

House Bill 203 tackles two issues with the operation of mobile dental facilities, or MDFs, in the state of Ohio. By making these two fixes in Ohio law, MDFs will be able to provide more reliable and effective dental services for Ohio families who might otherwise not be able to visit a dentist.

The first area the House Bill 203 makes improvements for MDFs is by requiring the facilities to provide some simple information to the patient so they know the services they received from the MDF, who the dentist was that provided services, any recommendations for follow-up care, as well as the information of the MDF so that the patient can contact them in the future to obtain their full medical records if needed.

Providing this basic information will lead to better health outcomes for MDF patients. For example, if an MDF takes x-rays for the patient and that patient then requires follow-up care at a "brick and mortar" dentist's office, there is currently no system in place that would provide that patient with their x-rays for the follow-up visit. As a result, that second dentist would have to take a second x-ray for the patient, and seeing as a vast majority of insurance providers, including Medicaid plans, only cover one x-ray per year, then that family would need to pay out of pocket for the second x-ray.

The second component of House Bill 203 will allow for a database of mobile dental facilities that are operating throughout the state. Currently, we have no data on how many MDFs are in operation in Ohio, nor is there a resource that communities and schools can utilize to look up MDFs that can come to their area and provide services.

To rectify this, the bill states that when dentists fill out their e-licensure form online each year, they must include any MDFs that they are connected with as a location on their licensure form. Dentists must already provide all the office locations that they operate from in that e-licensure form, so this bill simply states that MDFs count as another location that must be listed. There are no additional fees associated with putting multiple locations on the form, it simply means that a dentist will need to

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take 30 extra seconds when filling out their e-licensure to write down the basic contact information of their MDF.

In conclusion, Oral Health Ohio feels strongly that House Bill 203 is a common-sense piece of legislation that puts some basic, straightforward guidelines in place for the operation of mobile dental facilities. These changes will benefit MDFs, dentists and Ohio patients by improving the effectiveness of the services provided at these facilities.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today, and I urge your support on this legislation. I am happy to answer any questions that the committee might have.

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