



To: Members of the Ohio House Insurance Committee

Fr: Joe Rosato, Director of Government Relations, Ohio State Medical Association

Da: June 9, 2020

Re: HB 679

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On behalf of the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA), the state's oldest and largest professional organization representing Ohio physicians, medical residents, and medical students, we want to thank the sponsors of House Bill 679 for working with us through several issues our association initially raised in discussions about the bill as introduced. Last week, OSMA submitted suggested language and comments in a letter to the sponsors. In the substitute version now before the committee for consideration, the items we brought up in our letter have been addressed.

OSMA is a longtime advocate for increased access to telehealth and we are looking forward to continuing to work with elected officials and other interested parties to make access to telehealth easier and more affordable for both physicians and their patients. Telehealth presents a valuable opportunity to better serve certain patient populations, such as those living in rural areas, elderly and disabled patients who cannot easily travel, and people in need of behavioral health care services. Amidst the ongoing public health emergency presented by COVID-19, many Ohio physicians have taken the opportunity to safely provide care via telehealth.

Our association is happy to offer our support of substitute HB 679. Again, we appreciate the sponsors for their willingness to accept our suggestions regarding the bill and we encourage you to contact us if you have any questions.