



**David J. Owsiany
Interested Party
House Bill 679
Insurance Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
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Chairman Brinkman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Boggs-

My name is David Owsiany, and I am the Executive Director of the Ohio Dental Association. As you may know, the ODA is the professional association of dentists in Ohio. We represent over 5,000 member dentists across the state.

I appreciate this opportunity to testify as an interested party on House Bill 679. The provisions of House Bill 679 continue the recent trend of legislative initiatives to expand health care treatment options for Ohioans through the use of technology while maintaining appropriate standards of care and patient protections. As you may recall, the Ohio House of Representatives did something similar in dentistry when you enacted legislation (House Bill 184) in 2018 in order to extend dental care to remote areas by allowing dentists to utilize technology to perform assessments through real time electronic communication and authorize dental hygienists and expanded function dental assistants to provide certain restorative procedures, including the application of Silver Diamine Fluoride and Interim Therapeutic Restorations, when dental disease is present. Ohio's current teledentistry law is designed to extend dental care and improve the oral health of underserved Ohioans.

The ODA is closely monitoring House Bill 679 as we continue to explore the use of technology to extend dental care. We are in the process of exploring the next generation of teledentistry, including the use of asynchronous technology to extend dental services in a safe and efficient manner. We expect further dental specific legislation in this area in the future.

I appreciate the opportunity to present this interested party testimony and would be happy to answer any questions you might have.