



SB 311 Opponent Testimony to the House State & Local Government Committee

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair Stephens, and Ranking Member Kelly:

We are writing today on behalf the osteopathic physicians and students of the Ohio Osteopathic Association to express opposition to SB 311. The Ohio Osteopathic Association (OOA) represents approximately 5,000 actively practicing osteopathic physicians (DOs) in the state of Ohio and more than 1,000 osteopathic medical students. DOs represent about 1 in 6 of the total physicians practicing in Ohio and more than a quarter of the state's family physicians. Osteopathic physicians provide distinctive care through a holistic approach to wellness that recognizes the person is a unit of body, mind, and spirit.

As written, the bill would prohibit the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) from issuing a general, mandatory statewide or regional quarantine or isolation order that applies to and is enforced against individuals who have not been either directly exposed to or medically diagnosed with the disease that is the subject of the order.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has brought about tremendous fallout in nearly every aspect of our world, we should ensure health decisions are made by health professionals. Specifically, we should protect the ability of the Ohio Department of Health to uphold its core public health responsibilities. One critical responsibility includes the ability of the ODH to prevent and control the spread of infectious diseases. Any attempt to circumvent public health officials from public health decisions would run counter to prioritizing a safe and healthy Ohio.

The OOA urges your opposition to this measure. Thank you to the House State & Local Government Committee for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Jennifer L. Gwilym, DO
Health Policy Chair
Ohio Osteopathic Association

Matt Harney, MBA
Executive Director
Ohio Osteopathic Association