

Brandy Spaulding, DC
Proponent Testimony – House Bill 151
June 3, 2020

Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 151. My name is Dr. Brandy Spaulding. I am a chiropractic physician, practicing in Chillicothe Ohio, and serve as the Interim Executive Director for the Ohio State Chiropractic Association.

Today I testify in support of HB 151, which creates the chiropractic loan repayment program. The program would provide loan repayment assistance on behalf of Doctors of Chiropractic who have applied to and been approved by the chiropractic loan repayment advisory board, and have agreed to provide chiropractic services in areas determined to be health resource shortage areas by the director of health, pursuant to section 3702.982.

The amount paid on behalf of a participant will not exceed \$10,000 per year or \$30,000 over the time of participation in the program. Funds can be used to repay government or other educational loans taken by the individual to pay for the following approved expenses while enrolled in an accredited chiropractic school or college: Tuition, other education expenses including fees, books, lab expenses, and room and board expenses as determined reasonable by the director of health.

In exchange for the individual's participation in the chiropractic loan repayment program, the chiropractic physician will fulfill a contract that includes providing chiropractic services:

- in an area determined to be a chiropractic health resource shortage area
- for a minimum of 20 hours per week
- regardless of the patient's ability to pay
- and, meet requirements and enter into a Medicaid provider agreement and provide chiropractic services to Medicaid recipients.

The current average Chiropractic education, without taking into account undergraduate expenses or room and board, is estimated to be \$120,000. When you consider undergraduate educational loans and room and board for 7.5-8 years of total education, many current graduates are coming out of chiropractic school with \$200,000-250,000 in student loans. This repayment program is mirrored after several other health care professional loan repayment programs and will help draw new graduates to serve and practice in Ohio. This bill will also improve access to health care professionals and non-pharmacological conservative treatment



options to Ohioans whom reside in areas that meet the resource shortage areas as determined by the director of health.

Additionally, this bill defines “animal chiropractic practitioner” and the specific criteria for which a Doctor of Chiropractic can render animal chiropractic services independent of a licensed veterinarian. Those identified as an “animal chiropractic practitioner” must hold a valid certificate from one of three designated organizations that specialize in animal manipulation. Training through these designated programs require over 200 hours of course and clinical work and successful completion of a certification examination. This bill limits animal chiropractic services to treatment of an animal’s vertebral or extremity joint dysfunction and clarifies that the animal chiropractic practitioner will only render these services upon completion of an animal care form by the animal’s owner.

The OSCA appreciates the collaborative approach created by Representative Carfagna as our association, the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association and both respective licensing boards worked to reach agreeable language in this bill.

Chairman Buke, I appreciate the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on HB 151 and would be happy to answer any questions from your committee at this time.

Brandy Spaulding, DC
Interim Executive Director, Ohio State Chiropractic Association