



To: Members of the Ohio Senate Insurance & Financial Institutions Committee

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

Da: November 18, 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 are writing today in support of House Bill 679, which modify telemedicine requirements in order to expand access for more Ohioans and make it easier for providers to use.

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.

OSMA is thankful to the sponsors of this legislation in the House for working with us through several issues our association initially raised in discussions about the bill as introduced. OSMA submitted suggested language and comments in a letter to the sponsors, and as a result, the sponsors made several key changes to the bill to address those items.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments in support of substitute HB 679, and we encourage you to contact us if you have any questions.