



Written Testimony Substitute SB 308
Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee

May 20, 2020

Chairman Eklund, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding Senate Bill 308. The Ohio State Chiropractic Association is pleased to see that Doctors of Chiropractic (DCs) are listed among the healthcare professionals included in this bill, and we support this legislation in its current form.

As the largest state association for DCs in Ohio, the OSCA would like to thank you for your legislative efforts in response to the current pandemic and voice our support of SB 308.

COVID-19 quickly and dramatically altered the healthcare landscape. During Ohio's Stay at Home order, healthcare workers, including DCs, continued to provide essential services and simultaneously were required to postpone other services. Providers quickly adapted to provide safe, timely and effective healthcare services in a model that was quickly and frequently being updated due to the pandemic. Additionally, healthcare professionals who do not usually work in the hospital system were surveyed by ODH for their willingness and ability to provide services within the hospital system should the surge have reached predicted numbers causing a strain on hospital systems and a potential shortage of healthcare workers. SB 308 provides protection from virus-related lawsuits and liability for those essential providers who are providing, or limiting, services in good faith and in compliance with orders, during the extreme scenario of a declared emergency or disaster.

SB 308 does not grant immunity from liability or a professional disciplinary action to a healthcare provider for actions that are outside of their skills, education, and training, or for willful or wanton misconduct. The intent of this legislation is to protect healthcare providers from unintended liability while acting in good faith to care for Ohioans during an emergency or disaster.

The OSCA appreciates the legislative efforts of the bill sponsor, Senator Huffman, and co-sponsors to protect those healthcare professionals, whose primary role during a crisis is to care for Ohioans, from unforeseen liability.

Thank you to your committee for your time and consideration.

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