



House Bill 606
Supportive testimony
Dr. Ryan Squier, President

On behalf of the Ohio Chapter, American College of Emergency Physicians (Ohio ACEP) we are writing to voice our support for expanded liability protections for physicians and other healthcare workers as provided in HB 606.

House Bill 7, passed in the 132nd General Assembly, enacted Ohio Revised Code section 2305.2311. Just a few years ago when first considering this bill, we could have never imagined the situation we face today. Disaster seems like an understatement. The changes in HB 606 wisely ensure physicians don't face unwarranted lawsuits for treating patients in these unprecedented times.

Ohio ACEP represents over 1,500 emergency physicians across the State that have a shared mission to provide high quality emergency care at any hour, day or night. Under the federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA), emergency physicians are required to evaluate and treat every patient who enters their door and it is our privilege to do so. These last two months have put our healthcare safety net to the test. Our members are struggling on a daily basis to make sure that our patients and our staff are practicing in the safest environment. We have invested great time and effort on a daily basis for the benefits of society, for the benefit of you and your constituents. We have struggled to secure adequate PPE and testing capabilities but know that every patient is still being seen when they present to the emergency department. In fact, emergency physicians are the only specialty who are required to screen and treat all patients who present.

Our physicians, practicing in emergency departments across the state, will continue to be at the forefront of the most severely ill patients who are in need of care during the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic. Our physicians are also among the healthcare providers most at risk. We strongly urge you to favorably consider HB 606.

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