

**Testimony for the Transportation, Commerce
and Workforce Committee**

**Written testimony
In Opposition to
Senate Bill 72**

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Chair McColley, Vice Chair Uecker, Ranking Member Antonio and Members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce, and Workforce Committee. On behalf of 5,000 osteopathic physicians and more than 1,000 osteopathic medical students I am writing you to urge opposition to SB 72. The health and wellbeing of Ohioans all across the state would be negatively affected if this bill passes in anything close to its current version.

SB 72 is an attempt by the fireworks industry to legalize discharge of fireworks in Ohio, as there's no apparent organic groundswell of support of legalization from citizen groups.

SB 72 includes new language allowing for certain types of consumer grade fireworks to be sold in retail establishments. This significantly alters Ohio law to circumvent national standards and classifications developed by the Consumer Products Safety Commission. This bill would establish one of the most dangerous fireworks standards in the nation, as there are often restrictions on dates and times as well as types of devices that can be discharged.

Physicians--especially those in emergency rooms throughout Ohio--would see an immediate increase in visits caused by recreational and reckless fireworks discharge. Time and time again, studies show that both the frequency and severity of fireworks injuries increase when discharge is legalized in a state.

Lastly and most importantly, it is Ohio children who are most directly impacted by the potential passage of this bill, as one-third of all injuries are to kids. Further, half of all fireworks injuries are to bystanders.

The OOA strongly urges your help in securing a safe environment for Ohio citizens by removing the discharge legalization from SB 72. Thank you for your time.