



## **HB 435 Opponent Testimony to the House Labor & Commerce Committee**

Chairman Stein, Vice Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan and members of the Ohio House Commerce and Labor Committee:

I am writing today on behalf of the Ohio Osteopathic Association to express opposition to House Bill 435.

The Ohio Osteopathic Association (OOA) works on behalf of more than 7,000 licensed osteopathic physicians in the state of Ohio and more than 1,000 osteopathic medical students. Osteopathic physicians provide distinctive care through a holistic approach to wellness that recognizes the person is a unit of body, mind, and spirit.

Simply put, vaccines save lives. As written, HB 435 would dramatically weaken our vaccination laws and erode our public health infrastructure.

This public health infrastructure is undergirded by an established, thorough process--informed by medical professionals--to ensure vaccines are as safe as possible before being offered to the public. The U.S. has multiple vaccines that have been strenuously tested, analyzed, and approved. Compared to the alternative, a decision not to immunize can involve dangerous or deadly risk to patients and their communities. To date, COVID-19 taken the lives of more than 22,000 Ohioans—a number greater than the population of eight counties in Ohio.

Similar to previous efforts, HB 435 fails to address the concerns from the medical, business or higher education communities to fully combat the deadly virus we currently face.

Ultimately, the OOA supports science and evidence-based medicine. As written, HB 435 fails to protect employers, essentially reverses Ohio's at-will employment doctrine, and jeopardizes the health and wellbeing of Ohioans. For these reasons, the OOA urges you to reject HB 435. We look forward to future discussions and thank the House Health Commerce & Labor Committee for its consideration.

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Executive Director  
Ohio Osteopathic Association