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**Representative Jennifer Gross
The Ohio House of Representatives**

HB 495 – Rep. Jennifer Gross, Sponsor Testimony, Tuesday, December 13th, 2022.

Chairwoman Manchester, Vice Chair Cutrona, Ranking Member Denson, and members of the Ohio Families, Aging, and Human Services Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony for HB 495 - the Patient Protection Act.

During an intimate medical examination, everyone deserves to feel safe, secure, and well-informed. In that vulnerable environment, mutual consent and transparency are crucial. Unfortunately, under current Ohio law, patients and providers alike are not as protected as they should be.

The Ohio Medical Board recently reopened 91 sexual assault cases against doctors and medical professionals, as well as over 1,000 sexual impropriety cases from the last 25 years throughout Ohio.

In 2021, one of my constituents reached out to my office and shared her experience of being sexually molested by a medical provider during a medical exam. Although she reported the details of the exam with her hospital, there was no third party to corroborate her statement. It was her word against the provider's word. Due to this experience, she struggles with anxiety and has had to seek mental health counseling.

The Patient Protection Act gives an added layer of safety and security by requiring that a physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse offer a patient a chaperone before conducting an intimate examination. If the patient or the patient's representative declines to have a chaperone present, the health care professional may refuse to conduct the intimate examination.

Patient safety is paramount in Ohio. HB 495 will ensure security for our patients.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HB 495. I am happy to answer any questions from the Committee.