



HB 135 Proponent Testimony to the House Health Committee

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chairman Holmes, Ranking Member Russo:

I am writing today on behalf of the osteopathic physicians and students of the Ohio Osteopathic Association to express support for HB 135.

The Ohio Osteopathic Association (OOA) represents approximately 5,000 actively practicing osteopathic physicians (DOs) in the state of Ohio and more than 1,000 osteopathic medical students. DOs represent about 1 in 6 of the total physicians practicing in Ohio and more than a quarter of the state's family physicians. Osteopathic physicians have a whole-person approach to wellness and recognize the person is a unit of body, mind, and spirit.

HB 135 would require health insurers to apply amounts paid by or on behalf of covered individuals toward cost-sharing requirements. HB 135 effectively combats the efforts by many health insurance plans to exclude co-pay coupons and other assistance from counting toward a patient's deductible—a policy called a co-pay accumulator.

According to a recent analysis from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Consumer Expenditure Surveys, U.S. consumers spent an average of \$4,342 out of their own pockets on healthcare in 2015.¹ This is nearly a 60% increase over the previous decade. Clearly, the public and private sectors must work together to decrease this increasingly burdensome strain on American families. HB 135 is a step in the right direction.

We strongly encourage your support of HB 135. Thank you to the House Health Committee for its consideration.

Matt Harney
Executive Director
Ohio Osteopathic Association

¹ <https://www.bls.gov/opub/btn/volume-9/mobile/what-is-driving-increases-in-healthcare-spending.htm>