

To: Members of the Ohio House Health Committee

Fr: Joe Rosato, Director of Government Relations, Ohio State Medical Association

Da: April 27, 2021

Re: HB 176

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On behalf of the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA), the state's oldest and largest professional organization representing Ohio physicians, medical residents, and medical students, I am writing today as an interested party to HB 176, which would revise the law governing the practice of athletic trainers (ATs) in Ohio.

The version of the bill before the committee now for your consideration comes as a result of significant collaborative efforts between the sponsor, proponents, and other interested parties. Even before HB 176 was introduced, the OSMA met with other interested parties and the ATs to discuss the changes it would make to current AT practice laws. We appreciate the willingness of the proponents to consider our concerns and feedback, as well as the resulting amendments to the draft legislation. With these issues addressed, the OSMA was able to take a position of neutrality on this bill.

This committee debates several scope of practice issues during each general assembly, and many members are familiar with how OSMA is committed to evaluating these proposals through collaborative discussion between all involved parties. We share a common goal of continuing to deliver high quality patient care in Ohio. During the legislative process, concerns may arise about the implications of scope of practice changes, and through cooperative efforts to address these concerns, we avoid safety risks and other negative impacts upon patients. In addition, legislative proposals are revised to contain more robust, tangible patient care solutions.

This exact process unfolded in the early stages of HB 176's legislative journey, and the OSMA commends the sponsors and proponents for taking this issue through the essential steps of this deliberative, thoughtful and effective approach to scope of practice legislation. We also thank the proponents for the continuous open dialogue and we believe this legislation is going to benefit patients in Ohio, which is always the ultimate goal.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments on this legislation and please feel free to contact OSMA should you have any questions.