



OHIO PODIATRIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, DBA  
**OHIO FOOT AND ANKLE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**  
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Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chairwoman John, Ranking Member Kelly and the members of the House State and Local Government Committee, my name is Mike Mathy and I serve as the Executive Director of the Ohio Foot and Ankle Medical Association, the recognized statewide association representing Ohio's podiatric surgeons and physicians. I am submitting written testimony today requesting that podiatric physicians be removed from the language regarding the State Medical Board section in House Bill 203, the occupational licensing legislation that is before this committee.

While our association believes this legislation may very well be needed for other professions that might be facing licensing barriers from entering Ohio, OHFAMA has not seen any data nor evidence that indicates that is a problem for podiatric physicians and surgeons who wish to come to Ohio to practice. Our association has worked very cooperatively with the State Medical Board over the years to establish common sense statutory and regulatory practices to make Ohio a very "professional friendly" place to come practice podiatric medicine and surgery. While SB 131 is very well intended, unfortunately, it is a broad mandate that takes a "one size fits all" approach and may include professions and licensing boards that truly do not have problems.

Ohio is very blessed to have one of only nine accredited Schools of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery in the country through Kent State University. This valuable resource trains and educates students from all across the country. OHFAMA and Kent State work collaboratively to try to retain those graduates to establish their practices in Ohio and we also seek to welcome podiatrists from across the country and the world to come to Ohio. We are not aware of situations where the current licensing structure in Ohio has been a prominent factor in a podiatric physician or surgeon choosing not to come to Ohio to practice.

In the opinion of our members and our organization, if the Ohio General Assembly wants to take a closer look at barriers that might be preventing Ohio from keeping and attracting podiatrists, it needs to take a look at statutory or regulatory changes that might enable our members to do more to help patients in our state. This is a process which the General Assembly has recently undertaken with pharmacists and that profession the Legislature has statutorily enabled pharmacists to perform many additional services in our evolving "team centered" approach to delivering health care.

OHFAMA would like to thank the General Assembly in its recent efforts to expand the ability of podiatrists, especially in statutory changes to allow our members to perform hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBO) and administer both flu shots and the COVID vaccination. This greater ability to help patients is truly a conversation and potential solution that could help our state retain and attract podiatric physicians and surgeons to practice in Ohio on behalf of many of your constituents.

Again, on behalf of Ohio's podiatric physicians and surgeons who make OHFAMA, we respectfully ask this committee to amend House Bill 203 to remove podiatrists from this well-meaning legislation. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me or Dan Leite or Courtney Saunders of Capitol Advocates if you have any questions on this testimony.