



To: Members of the Ohio House Behavioral Health Committee

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

Da: April 23, 2024

Re: HB 300

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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, we write today in support of House Bill 300, which would establish a pilot program for remote treatment of opioid use disorder.

Ohio continues to face a mental health and substance use disorders crisis, and OSMA members are on the front lines of this crisis. OSMA has worked over the past several years to try to shift the focus of the response to the ongoing issues of drug abuse and overdoses in the state, promoting reduction of barriers to mental health and substance use disorder treatment (including medication-assisted treatment, or MAT), utilization of telehealth, and access to harm reduction services.

With specific provisions aimed at reducing barriers to care and giving patients easier and safe access to MAT through remote treatment, HB 300 is in line with these principles. In addition, by requiring certain data collection, this legislation empowers the state to make evidence-based decisions in the future based on how cost-effective the pilot program is and evaluation of outcomes of patients participating in the program.

Thank you for your consideration of our remarks. As always, we appreciate the opportunity to be meaningful contributors to the legislative process. Please contact us should you have any questions.