

**The Ohio House of Representatives
Health Provider Services Committee
House Bill 463**

Proponent Testimony
Zachary K. West
December 3, 2024

Chairman Swearington, Vice Chair Gross, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the Health Provider Services Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide testimony in support of House Bill 463, “My Child-My Chart Act”.

I am an independent physician providing primary care and osteopathic neuromusculoskeletal medicine specialty services in Tiffin, Ohio (Seneca County). I currently serve as the Vice President of the Seneca County Board of Health and I am Seneca County Coroner-Elect, however, my testimony is as an independent physician and not as a public official.

A benefit of the adoption and incorporation of the electronic health record (EHR) and the associated patient access portals is the opportunity for increased access for patients and their medical records. However, a discrepancy between federal and Ohio state law has created a scenario that impacts a parent’s or guardian’s legally permitted access to a minor’s medical records. Some EHR systems are presenting an “all or nothing” situation as it relates to a parent’s or guardian’s access to a minor’s medical records. The consequential result has been confusion, frustration and how to best provide access to what is legally permitted.

Medical care, including the care of a minor, is at times a very sensitive matter. Access to such information in these circumstances should be handled with additional care and consideration. Ohio law already outlines times that a minor may receive care without parent or guardian consent and House Bill 463 acknowledges these circumstances. House Bill 463 establishes a process by which parents or guardians are notified of the circumstances for which a minor may receive care without consent mitigating part of the confusion and frustration.

House Bill 463 addresses the current “all or nothing” access situations by requiring the separation of a minor’s medical records of those related to care obtained with a parent or guardian consent from those related to care obtained without a parent or guardian consent. A similar separation of records already exists in many EHR systems as it relates to mental health records and therefore existing EHRs and patient access portals are capable of such a separation of a minor’s records.

Please support House Bill 463 and help to rectify the issues surrounding a parent’s or guardian’s access to a minor’s medical records.

Sincerely,
/s/ Zachary K. West
Zachary K. West, DO, MPH, FACOI
Tiffin, Ohio