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State Representative, 51st House District

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Stewart, Ranking Member Liston and members of the House Public Health Policy Committee, thank you very much for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 89, prohibiting intimate examinations on anesthetized and unconscious patients without their express consent.

This issue was brought to my attention by a number of resident physicians that have expressed concern about being asked to perform a pelvic examination on an unconscious patient. These patients, much to my surprise, are often in for procedures or check-ups that would not in any way warrant a pelvic exam. Further, these patients have often not consented to the exam and may not even be aware that it has occurred.

I believe it is imperative that we prioritize patient privacy and dignity in medical settings. It is a fundamental right of every patient to receive medical care that respects their body and preserves their dignity.

Anesthetized and unconscious patients are in a vulnerable state, it is therefore unacceptable to conduct these intimate examinations on such patients without their explicit consent. Furthermore, conducting these exams without consent creates an uncomfortable environment for the medical team, which may make them lose focus on the primary goal of the procedure or visit.

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Stewart, Ranking Member Liston, thank you again for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 89. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.