

5/2/23

Dear Chair Lipps, Vice Chair Stewart, and members of the House Public Health Policy Committee,

My name is Lucy Oaks, and I am a third-year medical student at Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine. I am a constituent of Columbus, OH 43202. I am writing in support of House Bill 89 "Regards intimate examination of anesthetized, unconscious patient". As a medical student, I am tasked with demonstrating competency in certain patient care skills. When performing these exams, it's imperative that we maintain the ethical principle of patient autonomy. Pelvic exams are invasive and traumatic for some patients; therefore, we must provide all patients with informed consent. Our oath as medical students and physicians is to do no harm to the patient. Performing unauthorized pelvic exams on anesthetized patients for the sole purpose of medical student education violates this principle and may cause unacceptable psychological harm to patients. No learning opportunity is worth sacrificing a patient's wellbeing. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Lucy Oaks