



Senate Bill 255
Senate Health Committee Proponent Testimony
November 20, 2024

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony in support of Senate Bill 255 on behalf of the Ohio Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (Ohio ACEP), which represents over 1,500 emergency physicians across the state.

Senate Bill 255 would make several changes to the law governing coroners in the state of Ohio, including requiring that the only individuals eligible to be coroners are physicians who are licensed to practice medicine (MDs) or osteopathic medicine (DOs) among other provisions.

Ohio ACEP appreciates the efforts of both Senator Johnson and Senator Huffman to ensure that the Ohio Revised Code places the proper guardrails on those who can become coroners and limits the office to only individuals holding an MD or a DO license. As both members have served in this role, they are uniquely situated to know the skills needed to uphold the duties of the office of coroner. The role of coroner requires a specialized skill set and clinical knowledge to make accurate determinations regarding causes of death. These decisions have far-reaching implications, not just for public health and safety but also for families, law enforcement, and the justice system as a whole. Additionally, one of the most crucial duties of a coroner is to sign death certificates; if not properly licensed as an MD or DO, a coroner cannot carry out this function.

For such a critical post, it is essential that every coroner has a rigorous medical background and training to execute their role successfully.

Ohio ACEP thanks Senators Huffman and Johnson for introducing this legislation, and we thank the committee for their thoughtful consideration of this bill.

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