

**Jeffery Tilson DDS**  
**Proponent Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 115**

**Insurance Committee**  
**Ohio Senate**  
**Proponent Testimony**  
**May 17, 2023**

Chairman Hackett, Vice Chair Lang, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Senate Insurance Committee-

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 115 today. My name is Dr. Jeffery Tilson and I am a former private practice owner dentist and currently am a presiding dentist for a dental resident program in the Columbus and Dayton areas. Prior to my current role I was in private practice for more than 40 years.

Seante Bill 115 is a very important piece of legislation which will ensure that patients are able to see the dentist that they choose. Allowing patients to choose the dentist that they want and trust is imperative. Currently, due to the reinterpretation of dental contracts, the dentist patient relationship is being disrupted. Patients are being forced to find another dentist in situations where the allowable fee for a procedure the patient has decided on is not enough to cover the cost of the lab fees, let alone the cost of quality service.

One such occurrence took place in my office when a patient needed to have a crown put over a surgically placed implant. In this scenario, the insurance company would not cover any portion of the crown but capped the fee I could charge the patient at a level that would not cover the overhead of the procedure. The patient in my office was willing to pay my fee but if I accepted the fee then I would be in violation of my contract and be at risk to be kicked out of the network. This scenario put a strain on the dentist patient relationship.

As a small business owner in Ohio I took pride in being able to care for my patients and work with the community to provide a needed service. Many patients of mine were with me for over 20 years. If I were a dentist coming out of school today, or one of the residents I oversee now, I would have to think about whether or not I wanted to start a practice in Ohio due to these insurance practices. Forty-three other states have found that the practice of non-covered services clauses are not good for patients or dentists. Surrounding states such as Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Indiana look more appealing because the insurance companies are not allowed to dictate what an office does when the insurance company will not reimburse anything for the service.

I ask you to support Senate Bill 115, as its passage is critical to the patients of Ohio. Without this legislation insurance companies will continue to interfere with the dentist patient relationship and the patients are the ones who will continue to suffer. Thank you for your time today and I would be happy to answer any questions.