



September 17, 2025

The Honorable Jean Schmidt, Chair  
Ohio House Health Committee  
Statehouse  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chair Schmidt and members of the House Health Committee,

On behalf of the members of the Ohio Receivables Management Association (ORMA), an affiliate of the Ohio Council of Retail Merchants, I write in opposition to House Bill 257.

We understand that medical debt is a very serious issue, one that our members work with debtors every day to help resolve. The best resolution for both consumers and health care providers is to assist with ways to pay down medical debt. The vast majority of consumers want to pay off their debts and restore their credit, but often they are afraid to take the first step. They don't realize that collection agencies can help them in a variety of ways that make repayment over time possible.

House Bill 257 disincentivizes consumers to repay their debt by removing the options creditors currently have to ensure repayment. By prohibiting wage garnishment and credit reporting, the legislature would be sending a message that repaying medical debts is unnecessary. These tools are used to bring consumers to the table to work out repayment plans in lieu of going through with such formal actions.

Also, charging interest on medical debt is not something medical providers do. The interest in question is post-judgment interest, which is afforded in statute to all Ohioans, and not set by health care providers. The Ohio Tax Commissioner sets the post-judgment interest rate formula annually.

Lastly, federal law preempts states from prohibiting medical debt reporting to credit reporting agencies, which was affirmed earlier this year by the US District Court for the Eastern District of Texas. Subsequently, the CFPB withdrew previous guidance issued on the reporting of medical debt.

While well intentioned, House Bill 257 would actually harm consumers and health care providers, and we respectfully urge the committee's rejection of the bill.

Please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss these issues in greater depth.

Sincerely,

Lora Miller  
ORMA Executive Director