

To: Members of the Ohio Senate Education Committee

Fr: Joe Rosato, Director, Government Relations, Ohio State Medical Association

Da: March 11, 2025

Re: SB 7

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On behalf of the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA), the state's oldest and largest professional organization representing Ohio physicians, medical residents, and medical students, we write today in support of Senate Bill 7, legislation which would require annual, age-appropriate education of Ohio K-12 students in both private and public schools about the harms of and restrictions against drugs of abuse.

SB 7 would direct the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) to collaborate with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) to develop evidence-based curricula and programs for school districts to utilize in drug abuse prevention education. The curricula would include information concerning not just deadlier substances, but also alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and e-cigarettes.

As Ohio continues to work to address substance abuse issues in our communities, it is important to recognize that prevention efforts are integral to this mission. OSMA believes that confronting drug use by youth and adolescents in our state by creating evidence-based instruction for our K-12 students about the dangerous, harmful impacts of substance abuse is a common sense step forward. We hope that this legislation can represent a meaningful part of the ongoing goal to save lives and prevent suffering for many Ohioans.

Thank you for your consideration of our remarks. As always, we appreciate the opportunity to be meaningful contributors to the legislative process. Please contact us should you have any questions.