

**Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 36
Senate Health Committee
Anthony J. Pipitone, D.O., F.A.C.E.P.
7453 LaScala Dr. Hudson, Ohio
Tpips@aol.com
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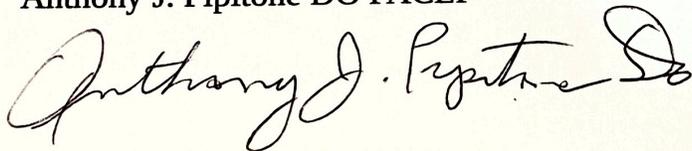
Chairman Huffman, Vice Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member Liston, and Members of the Senate Health Committee:

My name is Dr. Anthony Pipitone, and I am a board certified emergency medicine physician who practiced in and around the Cleveland area the majority of my career.

As an emergency medicine physician for over 30 years, I have utilized optometrists on-call with hospital privileges for my patients with ocular conditions. The expertise in ocular disease and trauma which I received from my optometrist colleagues has helped effectively treat countless patients. Optometrists were a wonderful resource to use whether to consult with or have them come in to examine patients night or day.

It is always in the best interest of the patient to collaborate with the experts regarding the condition in which they need care, and I always found the optometrists I worked with to have the appropriate breadth of knowledge and educational training to help manage my patient's emergent ocular conditions. In my experience, optometrists are well equipped and trained to manage ocular diseases. Their profession is an essential part in providing quality eye care to Ohioans.

Anthony J. Pipitone DO FACEP

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anthony J. Pipitone D.O." The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.