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Thank you, Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the committee, for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 207, which would designate the month of June as Male Wellness Month in the state of Ohio.

This is a bipartisan effort grounded in a simple but important truth: the health and well-being of Ohio's men matters, not just to them, but to their families, communities, and workplaces. House Bill 207 aims to raise awareness, break down stigma, and encourage men across Ohio to take their health seriously, physically, mentally, and emotionally.

I'm pleased to be joined in this effort by Representative Elgin Rogers, who serves as the joint sponsor of this legislation. I appreciate his partnership and his commitment to improving health outcomes in Ohio. It's been a privilege to work with him on this meaningful and nonpartisan initiative.

This legislation hits close to home for me personally. Like many husbands and fathers, I spent years focused entirely on taking care of others, raising four kids, serving my community, working full-time, and like so many men, I let my own health take a backseat. Doctor visits were put off. Stress was ignored. Health became an afterthought.

That's not uncommon. In fact, it's part of the reason this bill is necessary. There's a cultural barrier that tells men to tough it out, to avoid vulnerability, to suffer in silence. And too often, that leads to preventable illness, undiagnosed conditions, and mental health struggles that never get addressed.

We want Male Wellness Month to serve as a reminder, not just for men, but for families, employers, and healthcare providers, that wellness isn't a luxury. It's a necessity. Encouraging healthy habits, regular checkups, mental health awareness, and open conversations can save lives.

Importantly, this bill has broad bipartisan support because the need it addresses is universal. Heart disease, cancer, diabetes, depression, suicide—these don't care what your politics are. This is a people-first bill, and I believe it reflects the best of what we can accomplish together in this General Assembly.

I want to thank Representative Rogers for his support. I respectfully ask for your support of House Bill 207 so we can take a meaningful step toward improving the health and well-being of men across Ohio.