

**STATE
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HB 207

Senate Health Committee

November 5, 2025

Good afternoon, I would like to start by saying thank you to the Senate Health Committee chair Senator Huffman, Vice Chair Senator Johnson, Ranking member Senator Liston and the members of the committee for consideration of HB 207 Male Wellness month. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to my joint sponsor, Representative Lorenz, for partnering with me on this bill. We are living in difficult times but House Bill 207, also known as the Male Wellness Month Act, is a piece of legislation that is deeply personal to me. My motivation for sponsoring and championing this legislation stems from my observations of the men in my community and throughout Ohio. Over time, I have noticed that many men, including those closest to me, are not consistently seeing their healthcare providers. Even when they do visit the doctor, they often struggle to fully comprehend the information being shared with them.

As my own father has aged, I've made it a priority to accompany him to medical appointments, ensuring he receives the care he needs and that we both fully understand the physician's assessment, his diagnoses, and treatment plans. In many

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ways – like many family members with aging loved ones, I have become his advocate.

The issue of male health is often overlooked in our society. There is a pervasive stigma surrounding the conversation of men's health, driven by the misguided belief that seeking medical care or even acknowledging health concerns is a sign of weakness or a lack of masculinity. This stigma must be broken. Regular visits to the doctor and dentist are essential components of good health, and we must foster an environment where seeking care is seen as a strength, not a vulnerability.

For many of Ohio's aging population, having a family member as an advocate or having someone to assist them in navigating the healthcare system, whether it's scheduling appointments or ensuring that they understand their doctors' instructions, can make all the difference in whether they receive the quality care they need and deserve.

This bill is designed not only to raise awareness about both the physical and mental health challenges facing men, but also to encourage family members to play a more active role in supporting the men in their lives when interacting with healthcare professionals. We must recognize that healthcare is a shared

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responsibility; we cannot do it alone. That is why my joint sponsor and I ask for your support for HB 207 also known as Take Your Dad to the Doctor and Dentist (DAD) Day. This legislation would designate the third Monday of the month of June as Take your Dad to the Doctor and Dentist day. This is a clarion call to all men and families that strong men – prioritize their health for their wives, children, loved ones and community. We thank you all for your listening and welcome any feedback or questions that you may have.