



**House Bill 207**  
**Proponent Testimony**  
**Senate Health Committee**  
**March 4, 2026**

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer proponent testimony on House Bill 207, which would designate June as “Male Wellness Month” and the third Monday in June as “Take Your Dad to the Doctor and Dentist Day.” My name is Ann Naber, I am a past-President and current member of the Ohio Dental Hygienists’ Association (ODHA) and its Legislative Committee, and I am also a past-President of the American Dental Hygienists’ Association.

One of the missions of the Ohio Dental Hygienists’ Association is to promote public access to oral health care. Good oral health is essential for many reasons, but the mouth is the gateway to the body, and maintaining oral hygiene helps prevent cavities, gum disease, and infections which can lead to more serious health issues such as heart disease and diabetes. For these reasons, ODHA is proud to support HB 207, and we want to thank Representative Rogers and Representative Lorenz for amending the bill to add dentists to the date designation.

Oral health is a vital but often overlooked aspect of total wellness, and for many people, visits to the dentist are irregular. We know that poor oral hygiene is linked to various systemic health issues, but by raising awareness of comprehensive health practices, which includes dental care, this bill encourages men to prioritize their well-being more holistically. "Male Wellness Month" is an important step toward eradicating the cultural stigma that sometimes surrounds men's health care. By promoting regular health check-ups, we also encourage men to keep up with their dental appointments. Oral examinations can often detect early signs of broader health problems, serving as an essential preventative measure.

"Take Your Dad to the Doctor and Dentist Day" offers a timely reminder that taking proactive steps, like routine dental visits and health screenings, can significantly improve quality of life and prevent serious illnesses. As a dental hygienist and educator, I support this bill because it advocates for preventive care, awareness, and education, which are foundational to maintaining not just healthy smiles, but healthy lives. Let us support the men in our lives by encouraging a comprehensive approach to health that includes oral care.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important policy. ODHA is proud to support House Bill 207. I would be happy to answer any questions.