



## OHIO

April 28, 2016

The Honorable Anne Gonzales  
Chair, Ohio House Health & Aging Committee  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 South High Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Representative Gonzales:

I am writing to follow up on written testimony I submitted to Ohio House Health & Aging Committee regarding the National Federation of Independent Business/Ohio's (NFIB/Ohio) opposition to House Bill 248 sponsored by Representative Robert Sprague. We had several objections that focus on all state-imposed health insurance mandates as well as two specifics to the as introduced bill as explained below. As a result of the substitute version of the bill that was accepted by the committee yesterday, NFIB/Ohio has moved to a position of neutral on the bill. We want to commend the sponsors for listening to our concerns and adjusting their bill accordingly. We recognize the opioid epidemic plaguing not only Ohio but the nation, and we applaud the efforts of Representatives Sprague and Antonio in working to find solutions.

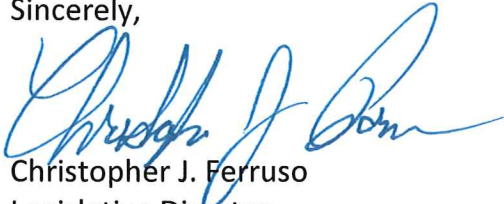
House Bill 248 mandated the coverage of abuse-deterrent opioid drugs as well as mandated that the cost-sharing for these drugs could not exceed the cost-sharing of their non-abuse-deterrent equivalents. The substitute version of the bill addresses both of these concerns.

First, the as introduced bill mandated coverage for abuse-deterrent opioid drugs. During interested party meetings, it was revealed that all health plans in Ohio provide access to these drugs. The substitute version of the bill now requires access to these drugs. While we believe this provision is no longer necessary as access already exists, it does remove the forced coverage mandate.

Second, House Bill 248 completely removes the cost equalization mandate. NFIB/Ohio was very concerned about the impact on premiums as abuse-deterrent opioid drugs cost significantly more than their non-abuse-deterrent equivalents. This cost must be recognized somewhere and would be passed along to purchasers of health plans, our small business members.

As a result of these changes made in the substitute bill, NFIB/Ohio is no longer opposed to House Bill 248. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Substitute House Bill 248.

Sincerely,



Christopher J. Ferruso  
Legislative Director

cc: Members of the Ohio House Health & Aging Committee  
Ohio House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger  
Ohio House Minority Leader Fred Strahorn