



OHIO PODIATRIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, DBA
OHIO FOOT AND ANKLE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
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JIMELLE RUMBERG, PHD, CAE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

June 4, 2018

The Honorable Stephen Huffman
Chairman, Health Committee
The Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0603

Dear Chairman Huffman:

On behalf of Ohio's podiatric physicians and surgeons that make up the Ohio Foot and Ankle Medical Association (OHFAMA), I am writing to convey our association's support for support for House Bill 546, legislation sponsored by Representative Tom Patton that would promote equity in the payment of telemedicine services.

OHFAMA would like to thank Representative Patton and the bipartisan co-sponsors of his bill for including podiatric physicians and surgeons in the definition of physician in Section 3902.30 (A)(2)(a) of the bill. As you and your colleagues are aware, OHFAMA's physician members have and will continue to provide quality, cost-effective care to your constituents. HB 546 will only enhance these efforts through the use of telemedicine and other health care delivery approaches, such as the medical home model. Ohio's podiatric physicians and surgeons bring proven value to the health care delivery system, both on our own accord and through a cooperative "team approach" with other providers. Telemedicine is one of the next steps in this delivery system evolution.

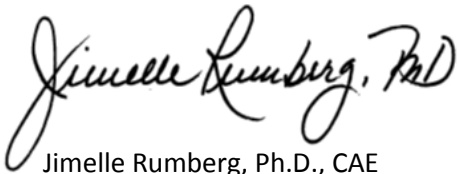
Telemedicine services have already been providing patients with vital care in Ohio and those services have produced lower costs and quality patient outcomes. As employers and insurers continue to drive consumers to high-deductible insurance plans that require more patient out-of-pocket requirements, telemedicine and its ability to provide quality care for lower prices could help consumers better manage their out-of-pocket requirements that are mandated by these high-deductible plans.

It does not appear to OHFAMA that HB 546 mandates the use of telemedicine services by insurers or health plans. We believe the legislation only looks to create a "payment parity" of sorts between services administered both on an in-person basis or using technology to administer those services through telemedicine. OHFAMA believes this policy is very reflective of the push that has been made in Ohio to institute a "value-based" payment system for providers. HB 546 simply says that payment

discrimination to a provider cannot take place *solely* based on the fact that the service is provided via telemedicine. Insurers and health plans still would have utilization management tools they may use to regulate telemedicine services and HB 546 does not infringe on those capabilities.

OHFAMA strongly supports HB 546 and encourages the passage of this bill by your committee. As always, we appreciate your willingness to consider the views of our members concerning the provision of quality care to our patients. Please feel free to contact me or Dan Leite and Courtney Saunders of Capitol Advocates if you have any questions concerning this important issue.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jimelle Rumberg, Ph.D." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jimelle Rumberg, Ph.D., CAE
Executive Director