

To: Members of the Ohio House Finance Committee

Fr: Monica Hueckel, Senior Director of Government Relations, Ohio State Medical Association  
Joe Rosato, Director of Government Relations, Ohio State Medical Association

Da: May 18, 2020

Re: Substitute HB 388

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On behalf of the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA), the state's oldest and largest professional organization representing Ohio physicians, medical residents, and medical students, we would like to express our appreciation to the sponsor and members of the committee for working with our organization and the physician community on this legislation, and for considering physician concerns with the language from the bill as introduced and its implications.

In an endeavor to respond to issues raised by the physician community, there have been changes made in this latest substitute version of HB 388. Our major concerns with the previous versions have been addressed with new compromise language in the substitute bill, which we support as an alternative.

As you know, the OSMA was primarily concerned with the statutory rate cap established in the original version of House Bill 388, and the troubling impact the legislation's structure would have had upon the contracting process between physicians and insurers. We feared that risking a fundamental change to how contracting functions could exacerbate problems for physicians and their patients.

The OSMA agrees that patients should not be stuck in the middle of payment disputes between providers and insurance companies. We have long advocated for a balanced approach to reconciling differences between physician charges and plan payments that removes patients completely from the dispute. While the substitute bill is not a perfect solution and not all will agree on each component of the rate cap and arbitration process, in the spirit of compromise, we thank the sponsor and other interested parties for giving our concerns serious consideration and revising HB 388 in an effort to resolve them.

Again, we would like to thank the committee for working with us throughout this process. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.