



## **State Representative Rick Carfagna**

*Sponsor Testimony – House Bill 151*

*Ohio Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid Committee*

*May 27, 2020*

Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee. Thank you for affording me the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 151. This legislation creates the Ohio Chiropractic Loan Repayment Program, with the goal of increasing chiropractic care to underserved communities and populations. Chiropractic physicians specialize in spinal care, neuromuscular care and/or nervous system function, providing non-surgical and non-pharmacological pain treatments. Chiropractic care is one of the most effective, safest, and yet underutilized assets in healthcare. Today, there are more than 70,000 active chiropractic licenses in the United States, with 2,552 licensed Doctors of Chiropractic in Ohio.

This program would mirror the existing Ohio Physician Loan Repayment Program and the Ohio Dentist and Dental Hygienist Loan Repayment Programs. Under this program, participating Doctors of Chiropractic would commit to providing chiropractic services in a designated chiropractic health resource shortage area for a minimum of two years, and see patients regardless of their ability to pay. In exchange for their commitment, selected applicants may receive up to \$10,000 annually for repayment of outstanding chiropractic school debt.

This program will be administered by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), and funded by the Ohio Chiropractic Licensing Board licensees through non-GRF funds. **To be clear, this initiative would be 100% industry-funded, with no taxpayer dollars supporting this loan program.** Under ODH, a chiropractic loan repayment advisory board will be created consisting of the following members: one member of the Ohio House, one member of the Ohio Senate, a representative from the Ohio Department of Higher Education, the director of ODH or a designated employee, and three representatives of the chiropractic profession appointed by the Governor. The advisory board will meet at least once annually, and will determine the loan repayment amounts. The advisory board will also submit an annual report to the Governor and legislature detailing the operations of the program, number of requests, the areas designated as shortage areas, the number of chiropractors assigned to those areas and the payments made, and any outstanding obligations.

Additionally, HB 151 establishes – for the first time - a clear set of delineations between chiropractors certified to practice on animals and licensed veterinarians. We had numerous meetings and language exchanges between the Ohio State Chiropractic Association, the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association, and their respective boards. That language presented in HB 151 narrowly defines this unique practice, establishes guardrails that will not compromise the health and safety of animals, and, in the event of any violations, outlines clear processes to hold practitioners accountable.

This bill passed out of the House Health Committee with a vote of 17-1 on February 5<sup>th</sup>, and passed out of the full House with a 95-1 vote on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Burke and members of this committee, thank you again for allowing me to provide testimony and at this time, I would be happy to answer any questions.