



**State Representative Scott Lipps**

**Sponsor Testimony – House Bill 136**

Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and Members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 136.

Chiropractic Care is widely recognized as one of the safest, drug-free, non-invasive treatments for Neuro-Musculo-Skeletal conditions, such as neck and back pain. Chiropractic treatment aims to restore function and reduce pain through cost-effective and conservative treatment measures versus masking the pain with prescriptions, risking dependency on opioids.

HB 136 seeks to improve access to conservative treatment options for Ohioans insured by Medicaid, by removing barriers to services rendered by chiropractic physicians. Specifically, this bill would require

coverage of Evaluation and Management (E/M) services rendered by chiropractic physicians.

Evaluation and Management occurs on the first visit and includes the history, examination, diagnosis, and development of a treatment plan for the patient. Conducting E/M services before rendering treatment is consistent with the standards of care for chiropractic physicians. Can you imagine showing up to a new doctor's office and the treatment is a covered service, but the initial evaluation is not? Lack of coverage of this necessary service can act as a financial barrier for Medicaid-insured patients to access conservative treatment services. Further, this service is covered by Medicaid when rendered by other healthcare providers.

Currently, chiropractic coverage by Medicaid is limited to spinal manipulation, diagnostic imaging of the spine, and acupuncture for the treatment of migraines and low back pain. Additionally, Ohio Medicaid has visit limits for spinal manipulation and acupuncture. This bill would ensure a patient's ability to access those visits without prior authorization limitations on top of the visit limit. It also ensures that

chiropractic physicians are reimbursed consistently with other healthcare professionals who provide the same service.

Ohio's Opioid crisis has not gone away. In fact, over the past year, we have seen numbers far worse than we have for the past several years. This bill takes steps to bring Medicaid's coverage of conservative treatment in line with best practice recommendations for the treatment of pain, including those made in the 2018 Ohio Attorney General's Insurer Task Force on Opioid Reduction. This committee's first recommendation was for insurers to cover and encourage the use of nonpharmacological treatments for pain. I am hopeful that this bill, offering an alternative solution to pain management, can accomplish that.

Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, thank you for your consideration of House Bill 136 and I would be happy to take any questions at this time.