



HB 469 Proponent Testimony to the House Transportation & Public Safety Committee

Chairman Baldridge, Vice Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member Sheehy and members of the Ohio House Transportation and Public Safety Committee:

I am writing today on behalf of the Ohio Osteopathic Association to express support for House Bill 469, designating a portion of State Route 87 in Geauga County as the "Dr. Steven Takacs Memorial Highway."

The Ohio Osteopathic Association (OOA) works on behalf of more than 7,000 licensed osteopathic physicians in the state of Ohio and more than 1,000 osteopathic medical students. Osteopathic physicians provide distinctive care through a holistic approach to wellness that recognizes the person is a unit of body, mind, and spirit.

Steven Takacs, DO, was a proud member of the Ohio Osteopathic Association.

Dr. Takacs was a 1986 graduate of the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine in Athens and then spent nearly 30 years caring for the residents of Geauga County at his medical clinic, Newbury Family Practice.

He was the epitome of an osteopathic physician, always practicing a whole-person approach to medicine that recognizes the person is a unit of body, mind, and spirit. Osteopathic physicians are trained to listen and partner with their patients to ensure a path to wellness. That was the cornerstone of Dr. Takacs' medical philosophy.

His practice had more than 5,000 active patients and he routinely made house calls and hospice visits. One patient once described him as a "throwback, like an old-time country doctor."

Not only did Dr. Takacs serve his patients, he also served his community in many ways. He was an active supporter of local organizations and events, especially Newbury and NDCL sports and Geauga County 4-H. As a member of the US Army Reserves, he was an ardent supporter of US military veterans.

The OOA wholeheartedly supports HB 469 and encourages passage of this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Harney". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Matt Harney, MBA
Executive Director
Ohio Osteopathic Association