



Chairman Rulli, Vice Chairman Lang, Ranking Member Sykes and all members of the Senate Small Business and Economic Opportunity Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit supportive comments on Senate Bill 150 on behalf of the Ohio Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (Ohio ACEP) that represents over 1,600 emergency physicians across the State.

Senate Bill 150 would prohibit non-compete clauses from being included in physician employment contracts. Board certified emergency physicians receive highly skilled and rigorous training. We see and treat every type of patient imaginable, and we do so 24/7/365. We are also almost exclusively physicians whose employment is based in a hospital or educational institution. We do know that some employers have instituted unfair non-compete clauses that can limit a physician's ability to change employers without also having to move and uproot their family. There are many reasons a physician may want to change employment and work for a hospital or institution in the same geographic area as their current employer. Ohio ACEP agrees those physicians should have that ability.

We also agree with the provision of the bill that an employment contract cannot prohibit a physician from working in a particular industry or practice specialty. Becoming a board-certified emergency physician takes years of dedicated and specialized training, as do all physician specialty board certifications. Physicians should be able to utilize their expertise and training in the place of employment they choose. If an opportunity presents itself for the physician to make an employment change to serve a different population or in a new location, their current employment contracts should not impede that ability.

We thank the bill sponsors and this committee for considering this perspective and we look forward to working on this issue as the process continues.

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