



To: Chairman Louis W. Blessing, III
Members of the House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee

Fr: Robert Falcone, MD
CEO
Columbus Medical Association

RE: Support for HB 145 – Confidential Treatment

The Columbus Medical Association (CMA) would like to express its support for HB 145 which will create a confidential reporting program for treating impaired practitioners in Ohio.

We strongly believe that the passage of HB 145 is in the best interests of physicians and their patients. For many months our organization has been a part of collective working group that has kept its focus on crafting a proposal that serves this purpose - benefiting both physicians and the patients that they serve. We are grateful to the State Medical Board of Ohio for their willingness to engage in this process and their efforts to find common ground that protects the public interest.

As you have heard from other supporters of HB 145, almost all other states offer a confidential system of intervention, treatment, and monitoring that would be similar to this “One-Bite” program should it be adopted.

Physicians, like the general population, are susceptible to developing a substance abuse disorder. Having a secure program in place would give our physicians, as well as physicians from other states applying for Ohio licensure, the chance to receive treatment for the medical condition of addiction. In addition to receipt of treatment, there is a fair monitoring system to ensure physician compliance. We believe this keeps physicians healthier, and thus better able to serve their patients.

We appreciate the work of Representative Huffman in sponsoring this bill and also the participation and support of Representative Sprague in bringing this bill to you for consideration.

We ask your support of HB 145.