



Ohio Osteopathic Association

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December 4, 2017

The Honorable Dave Burke, Chair
Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee
Ohio Senate
Columbus, Ohio

Re: Written Testimony in Support of HB 145

Dear Sen. Burke:

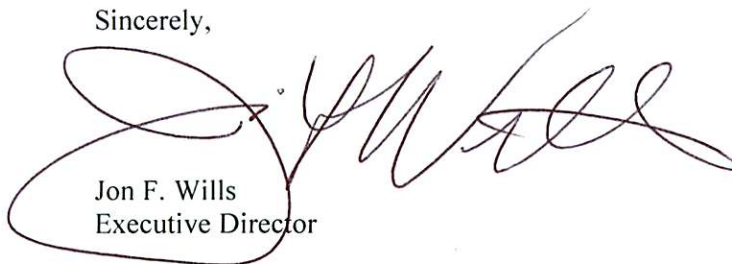
I am writing on behalf of the Ohio Osteopathic Association as a strong proponent of HB 145, which requires the State Medical Board of Ohio to establish a confidential process for the treatment of impaired physicians. This process, known as “one-bite,” is designed to ensure patient safety by getting impaired physicians the help they need with early intervention and treatment assistance.

The Ohio Osteopathic Association is a non-profit professional association that advocates for Ohio's 4,441 licensed osteopathic physicians (DOs) practicing in Ohio, and the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine. DOs represent 13 percent of the total physicians practicing in Ohio and 26 percent of the state's family physicians.

Although the “one-bite” process has been recognized in the Ohio Revised Code for decades, this legislation is the result of a strong collaboration between the State Medical Board, the Ohio Physicians Health Program and the Medical Association Coalition (MAC) to get the process right. The MAC is a coalition of treatment providers, associations and concerned professions that includes the Ohio Osteopathic Association, the Ohio State Medical Association, the Ohio Physicians Health Program and 14 other organizations and professionals. The MAC had numerous meetings with the Medical Board for more than a year to refine and improve the existing one-bite mechanism.

The collaborative process used to draft this bill clearly illustrates how the law-making process should work. The interested parties worked together to identify issues, explore alternatives, and research best practices in other states. We believe this legislation serves as a model process that can be used by all professional licensing boards in Ohio, and we urge the committee to support this legislation. We will be happy to provide additional information upon request.

Sincerely,



Jon F. Wills
Executive Director