



OHIO PODIATRIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, DBA
OHIO FOOT AND ANKLE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
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JIMELLE RUMBERG, PHD, CAE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 11, 2017

The Honorable Dave Burke
Chairman
Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee
The Ohio Senate
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Burke:

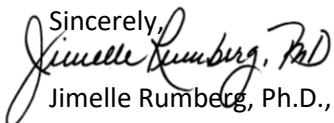
On behalf of Ohio's podiatric physicians and surgeons that make up the Ohio Foot and Ankle Medical Association (OHFAMA), I would like to convey our organization's strong support for House Bill 145, the so-called "one-bite" legislation that is currently before your committee.

OHFAMA has worked in collaboration with the State Medical Board, former Ohio Supreme Court Justice Evelyn Stratton and other physician organizations and interested parties to establish a confidential process that is designed to ensure patient safety through getting impaired physicians the crucial help they need. This "one-bite" program contained in HB 145 will provide these impaired physicians with early intervention and treatment assistance while protecting the public.

The bill before your committee reflects much hard work and meetings between OHFAMA, the Medical Board and the aforementioned parties that our association firmly believes will lead to helping impaired physicians get recovering treatment help and education. Our "working group" examined the complex issues facing physicians, patients and regulators in this sensitive area and examined solutions being employed in both the private and public sectors in Ohio and across the country.

OHFAMA would especially like to thank the bill sponsors, Representatives Steve Huffman and Robert Sprague, for their commitment and patience in allowing our working group to take the needed time to examine all options in formulating this important legislation. Make no mistake, the issues surrounding this bill were very complex, but the bill sponsors provided us with the time to focus on what was truly important to every organization; that being patient safety and getting impaired physicians the crucial help that is needed.

On behalf of Ohio's podiatric physicians and surgeons, thank you for permitting me to express OHFAMA's strong support for HB 145. As always, please feel free to contact me or Dan Leite and Courtney Saunders at Capitol Advocates if you should have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jimelle Rumberg, Ph.D., CAE
Executive Director