



To: Members of the Ohio House Insurance Committee

Fr: Monica Hueckel, Senior Director of Government Relations, Ohio State Medical Association

Da: February 9, 2022

Re: HB 451

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On behalf of the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA), the state's oldest and largest professional organization representing Ohio physicians, medical residents, and medical students, I thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 451 today.

The provisions of this legislation aim to protect patients from suffering potential treatment delays and quality risks that can result from the complex and flawed "white-bagging" policy requirements imposed by insurers. Patient care and safety should be the first and highest priority, and policies like "white-bagging" introduce avoidable patient risk and can also drive up patient care costs. HB 451 is designed to better ensure safety for patients while promoting better health outcomes and saving patients from higher cost-sharing responsibilities that often come from insurer "white-bagging" mandates.

This issue is significant to OSMA members, and in particular, Ohio physicians in private practice, and those who practice in specialties like oncology and rheumatology. Patients undergoing treatments such as chemotherapy take complex drug regimens that require frequent adjustments at the point of care. Physicians treating these patients need the ability to deliver this care to patients quickly and efficiently in order to meet each patient's unique needs.

Thank you for your consideration of our remarks regarding this important issue. As always, OSMA appreciates the opportunity to be a meaningful contributor to the legislative process. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or wish to discuss this issue further.