

Committees

Civil Justice
Behavioral Health
Health Provider Services



Committees:

Infrastructure
Families & Aging

Darnell T. Brewer

State Representative, Ohio House District 18

Ladies and gentlemen of the Public Health Policy Committee, esteemed colleagues, and fellow Ohioans, I would first like to thank Chairman Representative Lipps, Vice Chair Representative Stewart, and Ranking Member Representative Liston for bringing this legislation to the agenda.

I stand before you today to discuss Ohio House Bill 246, a pivotal piece of legislation that empowers Ohioans to make informed and personal choices about their healthcare.

At the heart of this bill is a simple yet profound principle: the right of every individual to choose the healthcare that best fits their unique circumstances. Health is deeply personal, and its decisions should be equally personal. This bill acknowledges that one-size-fits-all healthcare policies often fall short of addressing the diverse needs of our population.

House Bill 246 aims to broaden healthcare options and increase accessibility. It seeks to remove barriers that currently restrict individuals from selecting healthcare services and providers that align with their personal, financial, and medical needs. In doing so, it upholds the right of individuals to be architects of their health and well-being.

This legislation is not about diminishing healthcare quality; instead, it's about enhancing it through choice and flexibility. By allowing more options, we acknowledge that people are the best judges of what works for them regarding healthcare. In crafting this bill, we have consulted with healthcare professionals, patient advocacy groups, and ordinary citizens. Their experiences and insights have been invaluable in shaping a practical and compassionate bill. We stand at a point where we can either maintain the status quo or move forward with a vision that respects individual healthcare choices. House Bill 246 represents a step towards a more inclusive and patient-centered healthcare system.

I urge the committee to consider the impact this bill could have on the lives of countless Ohioans. It's a step towards a future where healthcare decisions are made in consultation and living rooms, not just legislative chambers.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to working together to advance this critical legislation.

Shining a light,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darnell T. Brewer".

Representative Darnell T. Brewer (D-18)