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OSPMR

Ohio Society of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

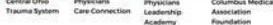


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Northeastern Ohio Otolaryngology –  
Head and Neck Surgery Society

TO: Shawn Kasych, Chief of Staff  
Chairman Bill Blessing, House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee  
DATE: November 14, 2018  
RE: Opposition to Substitute HB 450

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On behalf of the above organizations we would like to strongly state our opposition to Substitute House Bill 450.

We have been kept up to date on the progress and debate regarding this legislation by the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA) and Ohio Hospital Association (OHA). Since their concerns with the bill are not being addressed, it is time for our organizations to come together and collectively oppose Substitute HB 450.

First and foremost, it is imperative the state of Ohio consider the tremendous impact this legislation would have on the thousands of patients our collective organizations represent. Whether we are a physician organization, a health care facility or a patient advocate group, we must look at this legislation from the lens of the impact it would have on the state's most vulnerable individuals: patients.

We emphasize the existing means to determine the necessity and validity of a proposed insurance mandate – the legislative process – *works*. Proposed legislation should continue to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis through the Ohio Legislature, wherein the possible benefits of the legislation can be fully assessed. No legislation regarding mandated health coverage passes without extreme time, consideration, debate, and negotiation by proponents, interested parties, and opponents of each proposal. Not every proposed mandate is passed through the legislature, but through this thoughtful and deliberative process, mandates for coverage of critical services such as coverage for cancer medications, mental health parity, care of adopted children, and mammography screenings have been added to the Revised Code.

To that end, we are concerned Substitute House Bill 450 severely restricts the ability of future general assemblies to consider needed patient reforms.

Any effort to control health care costs cannot come at the expense of Ohio's health care providers delivering the best quality care to patients in need. Our organizations believe that the extreme provisions of Substitute House Bill 450 are inappropriate and represent an unnecessary threat to the continued progress our state is making improving access to important health care services.

We urge you to stop this legislation from moving forward and continue to allow the legislative process to be one where patients in Ohio can come to debate needed reforms. Please contact Monica Hueckel with the Ohio State Medical Association at 614-657-5177 if you would like to further discuss this issue. Thank you for your consideration.