November 3, 2021

President Matt Huffman, Speaker Robert Cupp  
Senate Health Committee Chairman Senator Stephen Huffman  
Ohio Statehouse

Re: Advising swift passage of Ohio House Bill 122  
Sent by email

Dear President Huffman, Speaker Cupp, and Chairman Huffman:

We are writing in support of House Bill 122 and want to express to you our concerns about the inclusion of amendments to the bill that will slow down the passage of this important legislation. H.B. 122 is currently being heard in the Senate Health Committee. We appreciate the value of the hearing process where facts and opinions can be shared from experts, health care providers, patients, and other concerned citizens.

Telehealth in Ohio
Telehealth is an important care delivery method for improving access in underserved Ohio communities, particularly rural areas, areas with physician shortages and other healthcare services. Telehealth can help reduce gaps in access to services and care, including access to primary care and specialized providers when in-person visits are not a safe or feasible option.

With constantly evolving medical technology, legislation is needed to appropriately regulate this growing service in Ohio, and to encourage its continued adoption and use, beyond the COVID pandemic. Telehealth is not a replacement for traditional healthcare, but rather an enhancement. We can expand healthcare treatment options in Ohio while maintaining high standards of care and patient protections.

Consequences of additional amendments
Our organizations, representing patients, healthcare professionals, and other supporters of telehealth services do not believe it is an advisable course of action to include amendments that would hinder the passage of H.B. 122. We strongly encourage the Ohio legislature to keep the bill as streamlined as possible. Stalling the legislation at this point in the process, will eliminate the consistency patients, providers and payers need to ensure that those wanting to utilize telemedicine can, with as much ease as possible. We urge that amendments that may jeopardize the passage by the Senate, concurrence of the House or signature of the Governor be taken up as separate, stand-alone bills to avoid unnecessary delays or complete defeat of the bill.

The rapid passage of H.B. 122 will continue to ease the burden on both Ohio’s patients and health care providers as we heal from the COVID pandemic and face a very different health care system than was in place pre-pandemic.

Sincerely,

Leo Almeida  
Ohio Government Relations Director  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

cc: Representative Mark Fraizer

And the following entities: