

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:

H.B. 122

Ohio Alliance for the Advancement of Telehealth

Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio
American Association of Clinical Urologists
American Diabetes Association
American Kidney Fund
Beacon Charitable Pharmacy
Charitable Healthcare Network
Equitas Health
Gaucher Community Alliance
Little Hercules Foundation
March of Dimes, Ohio
Mental Health America of Ohio
National Multiple Sclerosis Society

National Alliance on Mental Illness of Ohio
National Organization for Rare Disorders
Ohio Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics
Ohio Alliance of Recovery Providers
Ohio Association of Rheumatology
Ohio Bleeding Disorders Council
Ohio Chapter – American College of Cardiology
Ohio Community Corrections Association
Ohio Emergency Medical Physicians Alliance
Ohio Psychological Association
Ohio Speech and Hearing Government Affairs Coalition
Ohio State Grange



Ohio CHAPTER

