

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE General Election, November 2018

The **Ohio Osteopathic Political Action Committee** (OOPAC) serves as the political arm for the **Ohio Osteopathic Association** and supports candidates committed to protecting patient care by ensuring physicians serve as the leader in a team approach to medicine. Osteopathic physicians attend four years of medical school and train for 3-7 years (depending on their specialty) as a resident before becoming a practicing physician. Doctors of osteopathic medicine (DOs) are also required to participate in at least 100 hours of continuing medical education every two years to maintain licensure. We support candidates who promote patient safety and quality care by guaranteeing health care providers treat within their scope of practice.

The questionnaire will be shared with members of the Ohio Osteopathic Association. **Please complete and return it no later than October 22, 2018**, to ctatman@ooanet.org, by fax at 614-294-0457, or by mail at OOPAC, PO Box 8130, Columbus, OH 43201.

Candidate Name	Casey Weinstein
Office & District	Ohio House, District 37
Candidate Phone Number	(330) 906-2826
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Candidate Mailing Address	8 North Westhaven Drive, Hudson, OH 44236

1. Ohioans receive the best health care when physicians serve as leader in a team approach to medicine. Physicians are trained and licensed to provide comprehensive patient assessment and diagnosis and may order x-rays, chest scans, perform surgeries, and have full prescriptive authority. Physician extenders such as physician assistants, advanced practice registered nurses, physical therapists, and other providers have less education and training than physicians. However, organizations and lobbyists supporting physician extenders often pursue legislation granting access to patients that reach beyond their education and training, endangering patient care. **Would you support legislation that extends the scope of practice rights for physician extenders that would allow them to evaluate, test and treat patients without physician supervision?**

Yes: **No: X**

Comments Physician extenders play an important role in an elaborate network of care, but it is vital that physicians remain at the center of said network to maintain patients' safety.

2. Recently, HB 726 was introduced that would remove the collaboration agreement between APRNs (advanced practice registered nurses) and physicians. This bill comes in the wake of recent legislation that already addressed the issue. In 2016, after 18 months of working with elected officials and the nurses, the bill that was ultimately passed made amenable modifications to the APRN scope of practice, but did not include independent practice authority. Unfortunately, HB 726 jeopardizes optimum care by circumventing the physician-led, team-based approach. **Would you support or oppose HB 726?**

Support **Oppose: X**

Comments I see no reason to support HB 726 given the vitality of physicians' central nature in the network of care.

3. Medicaid providers give care to those most in need of health care services. The state's Medicaid system has endured fluctuating federal funding the last several years. Far too often, the budget savings are proposed through a dramatic cut to Medicaid provider rates. These huge cuts will restrict access to health care for those who cannot seek treatment elsewhere. **As a legislator, would you support or oppose Medicaid provider rate cuts?**

Support **Oppose: X**

Comments Maintaining Medicaid expansion and full Medicaid coverage is among my top priorities.

4. Analysis shows Medicaid expansion has reduced the number of uninsured Ohioans by half since its inception. Additionally, 96 percent of those needing treatment for opioid addiction received it and 37 percent of smokers were able to quit. Emergency room visits reduced 17 percent and the number of individuals seeing primary care doctors increased 10 percent. **Will you support Medicaid expansion and the corresponding state portion of funding?**

Yes: X No

Comments As stated above, maintaining Medicaid expansion is among my top priorities.

5. The Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine is the state's largest medical school. Beginning in the spring of 2019, OU-HCOM will graduate 1,000 osteopathic physicians every four years. Further, OU-HCOM had the highest in-state match rate of the seven medical schools in 2018. Now more than ever, osteopathic physicians are benefiting health care throughout the state. To that end, **will you protect state funding for OU-HCOM as a means to benefit health access and provide quality health care in Ohio?**

Yes: X No

Comments Although not a physician, my wife is a professor at the University of Akron. We absolutely must ensure our public universities are adequately funded at all levels, from undergrad through professional programs like OU-HCOM.

6. Do you know a DO? If so, who are they and how are you connected to them?
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By signing below, I indicate the information provided above is true and the answers submitted are an honest reflection of my views.

Casey Weinstein

10/22/2018

Signature

Date