

Candidate Questions

Richard Dana, State Representative District 99

1) Ohioans receive the best health care when physicians serve as the 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? No

Comments: The goal, consistent with any high reliability organization, is zero patient harm, and that occurs with a team approach. As part of this team approach, for example, Physician Assistants work under a treating physician and can provide care, including the writing of prescriptions, depending on the PA's experience and licensures. This is like the legal profession where we want experienced counsel for Courtroom activities, but that Team approach can also include paralegals and other professionals who have expertise in more specialized parts of the practice behind the scenes. However, I would be resistant in permitting someone without a M.D. or D.O. to use the phrase Doctor if that is not a degree that he or she holds. Otherwise, there is a risk of mis-informing patients.

2) HB 177, which would remove the collaboration agreement between APRNs (advanced practice registered nurses) and physicians, is being considered in the House Health Committee. The bill effectively allows independent practice authority for APRNs. Unfortunately, HB 177 jeopardizes optimum care by circumventing the physician-led, team-based approach.

Would you support or oppose HB 177? Oppose

Comments: Please see my answer above.

3) Medicaid providers care for 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, budget savings are proposed through cuts to Medicaid provider rates. These huge cuts would restrict access to health care for those who cannot seek treatment elsewhere.

As a legislator, would you support or oppose Medicaid provider rate cuts? Oppose

Comments: There are two issues here, especially in Ohio. 1.) Medicaid expansion, which I fought to continue as a Member of our local Mental Health and Recovery Service Board. and 2.) Provider rates which, as a current Member of a major Northeast Ohio Hospital Board, I have fought further cuts that threaten future medical care to those most in need.

4) As our state continues to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic, do you support the following to help slow the spread of the virus?

- Masks/facial coverings: Yes
- Physical/social distancing: Yes
- Limited indoor gatherings: Yes
- A CDC-approved vaccine: Yes

5) Generally, do you support vaccines and immunizations as a way of preventing disease? (Examples: Hepatitis B, measles/mumps/rubella, polio, etc.) Yes

Comments: Vaccines need to be proven to be safe and effective, but once that is established, immunizations should occur.

6) The Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine (OU-HCOM) is the state's largest medical school. OU-HCOM now graduates 1,000 osteopathic physicians every four years. Further, OU-HCOM

consistently maintains the highest in-state residency program match rate of the seven medical schools in Ohio. Now more than ever, osteopathic physicians are providing and 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

Comments: I have seen, first hand as a Member of my local school board and as a part-time college instructor, the negative effects caused by decreases in State funding for education. It is one of the main reasons I am running for the Ohio House.

7) Do you know a DO? If so, who are they and how are you connected to them?

Yes, while my primary care physician is an MD, my work on a local Hospital Board brings me in contact with numerous doctors.