

# ADVOCACY UPDATE

July 2025



*The OOA brings advocacy directly to members through ongoing engagement and by investing in a government relations firm to represent osteopathic interests at the Statehouse. Our members power this work. Membership dues support and sustain a strong advocacy program, ensuring doctors have a voice in policy decisions. OOPAC backs pro-osteopathic candidates on both sides of the aisle who champion the issues DOs care.*

## OHIO LEGISLATURE

**HB 7** Signed by Governor; eff. 4/9/25 -- (Strong Foundations Act): This legislation supports critical early childhood development efforts by improving Medicaid coverage for infant mental health, streamlining access to parenting resources, and enhancing maternal-child health infrastructure—key areas of concern for DOs focused on holistic, preventive care.

**HB 70** – Signed by Governor; eff. 3/20/25 -- (School OTC Drug Policy): This legislation requires Ohio schools to adopt policies governing the administration of over-the-counter medications to students. For DOs, this supports safer, more consistent medication practices in school settings and reinforces the importance of coordinated care between families, physicians, and educators.

**HB 256** – Reintroduced with a different subject; referred to committee -- (Organ Donation Education): This legislation promotes awareness and education around organ donation by requiring the inclusion of organ and tissue donation information in Ohio's health curriculum. For DOs, this aligns with a commitment to whole-person care and public health advocacy, reinforcing the importance of informed decision-making and expanding access to life-saving transplants.

## AMICUS BRIEFS

**Christine Lewis v. OhioHealth Mansfield Hospital:** Addresses whether plaintiffs can name previously unidentified defendants after the statute of limitations expires. Case before the Ohio Supreme Court.

**Gregory J. Rau v. Miami Valley Hospital:** Examines trial court evidentiary rulings. OOA and other organizations support physician-friendly standards to ensure fair trials and protect from judicial overreach.

## AOA AFFILIATE SUPPORT LETTERS

*The OOA is part of a coalition of osteopathic medical associations united in supporting these current and future initiatives.*

**Medicare Cuts:** The AOA and partners urged Congress to stop a 2.83% Medicare physician payment cut and instead pass H.R. 10073, which would provide a 1.8% increase. They warned that ongoing cuts threaten care access and physician sustainability.

**Chiropractor Scope Expansion:** AOA and 55 organizations opposed legislation (S.106/H.R.539) expanding chiropractors' Medicare authority and the use of the title "physician," citing patient safety, training gaps, and increased healthcare costs.

**Vaccine Policy Protections:** The AOA supported the Family Vaccine Protection Act to safeguard ACIP's authority in issuing evidence-based immunization guidance—critical for protecting access to safe, science-backed vaccines.

**Student Loan Reform Concerns:** The AOA opposed proposed loan policy changes that could worsen the physician shortage. They call for maintaining graduate loan programs, longer interest deferral, and PSLF eligibility during residency.

## OHIO HOUSE OF MEDICINE

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### Insurance Issues

- Prior Authorization Gold Card HB 214
- Automatic Downcoding/Prudent Layperson SB 165
- Clawbacks SB 162
- AI Transparency SB 164
- EFT's SB 166
- Biomarker Testing HB 8
- Co-Pay Accumulator SB 207
- Non-Medical Switching SB 160
- Network Adequacy HB 219
- Prior Authorizations HB 220 –
- Breast Cancer Screenings HB 271

### Public Health

- Ban on Tanning for Minors SB 25
- Prescription Drugs HB 12
- Anti-Vax HB 112
- Overdose Reversal Drugs SB 137

### Scope of Practice

- Respiratory Therapists HB 253
- CRNA Scope of Practice HB 52
- Midwives HB 224
- PA Name Change TBD
- Optometrists SB 36
- APRN Independent Practice Authority TBD

### Legislating the Practice of Medicine

- Medical Records HB 162