



May 15, 2020

The Honorable Matt Huffman
Member, Ohio State Senate Judiciary Committee
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square
2nd Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Huffman:

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the Ohio Osteopathic Association (OOA) are writing to express our strong support for the medical malpractice liability protections established by SB 308 for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency.

The AOA represents over 151,000 osteopathic physicians (DOs) and osteopathic medical students, promotes public health, encourages scientific research, serves as the primary certifying body for DOs and is the accrediting agency for osteopathic medical schools. More information on DOs/osteopathic medicine can be found at www.osteopathic.org. The OOA is a professional medical organization that represents more than 6,300 DOs and medical students providing patient care in Ohio.

COVID-19 has created conditions never previously encountered in our country and pushed our health care system to the brink. Physicians are being called upon to serve in crisis hotspots, and in many cases to work outside of their specialties in order to save lives and stop the spread of the virus. Many health care facilities lack beds, ventilators and other necessary supplies, including personal protective equipment (PPE) for their health care workforce – forcing physicians to make impossible choices, sometimes putting their own lives in jeopardy and delivering care in suboptimal circumstances. Nonetheless, DOs continue to respond to the call of duty to ensure that patients receive the care they need, risking both their own health and, because of the patchwork of medical liability laws that exist in our nation, their careers in the process.

The AOA and the OOA thank you for your leadership in introducing SB 308, which will help protect physicians from potentially career-ending liability and ensure that they are able to continue to focus on patient care during this emergency. Should you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Raine Richards, JD, AOA Director of State Government Affairs at r-richards@osteopathic.org or (312) 202-8199.

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Sincerely,



Ronald R. Burns, DO
President, AOA



Sandra L. Cook, DO
President, OOA

CC: Thomas L. Ely, DO, President-elect, AOA
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