



Chairwomen Gonzales, Vice Chairman Dr. Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the House Health and Aging Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share with you Ohio ACEP's support for House Concurrent Resolution 16.

The Ohio Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (Ohio ACEP) represents nearly 1400 emergency physicians who practice throughout the state in a wide diversity of practice locations - from emergency departments that have eight beds to departments with over 100 beds. Each of our members has seen the effects of opiate and drug abuse, and we want to thank this committee and the Ohio legislature for the time and interest that has been given to this epidemic.

Our association views HCR 16 has an important addition to the work that is being done to address the opiate abuse epidemic in Ohio and nationwide.

Patient satisfaction surveys were designed as a subjective tool to measure objective physician performance. The results of these surveys, in many cases, effect a physician's compensation. Currently, the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS), asks patients to rank and evaluate how effectively a physician managed their pain. Asking patients to rate their physician's ability to treat their pain may create pressure on physicians to treat pain more aggressively than necessary with narcotic pain medications when other modalities are not immediately available in the emergency department or tolerated by the patient, rather than set realistic expectations of pain relief for the patient. Over-prescribing pain medications to meet survey goals has the potential to compromise patient safety and may contribute to serious public health issues.

Since the HCAHPS is a survey instrument of CMS, we understand that the state legislature cannot pass a law to have the survey revised. HCR 16 will hopefully push CMS to revise their current survey.

Studies show that the majority of Emergency Department patients present with a painful condition. Treating pain is a primary responsibility in the ED and needs to be done fairly and in a responsible manner. That is why Ohio ACEP has been so engaged in this fight to curb prescription drug abuse. Our members have been active participants in the Governor's Cabinet Opiate Addiction Taskforce (GCOAT). We helped to craft, endorsed and promoted the Emergency Department Opiate Prescribing Guidelines released by GCOAT. We have heard from many of our physicians that they are thankful to have that resource as a basis of education, not just for themselves but for their patients. We have also been engaged in several of the legislative initiatives debated and passed by this committee. We are important stakeholders in the effort to put patient safety first and to appropriately limit the amount of opiates prescribed to a patient.

Ohio ACEP sees HCR 16 as an important piece to this fight against the over prescribing of opiates.

Madame Chair, thank you for considering the view point of Ohio's emergency physicians.

Michael J. McCrea, MD,FACEP

President

Ohio Chapter, American College of Emergency Physicians

Ohio ACEP promotes quality emergency medical care and represents the interests of Ohio's 1400 Emergency Physicians. Since its charter in 1972, Ohio ACEP has been at the forefront of advancing the profession of emergency medicine in Ohio and assuring access to high quality emergency care for the people of Ohio.

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