



For Immediate Release

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Healthcare Providers Group Statement Regarding House Bill 216

The following statement may be attributed to Dr. Robert E. Kose, President of the Ohio State Medical Association speaking on behalf a statewide coalition of healthcare provider groups in opposition to Ohio House Bill 216.

HB 216 eliminates the requirement for APRNs to collaborate with a physician while at the same time expands their scope of practice. The bill also expands APRN's ability to prescribe addictive schedule II drugs.

"There is no compelling evidence that requiring APRNs to collaborate with a physician when making medical diagnoses and prescribing drugs poses a burden or limits their ability to find work or provide care in Ohio.

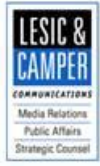
"A recent workforce study shows the number of APRNs has increased by 3,000 since 2013 and that they do not have any difficulty finding employment in the state.

"According to an AMA study from 2012, patients prefer their care to be coordinated and a physician be included in that team model. Physicians have more than 11 years of diverse education including direct clinical care with patients, more than any other medical professional. HB 216 dismisses the deep experience a physician brings to a medical team.

"At a time when every area of Ohio is struggling with opioid abuse, HB 216 actually seeks to diminish prescriptive controls by eliminating physician oversight when APRNs prescribe addictive and dangerous Schedule II drugs.

"In addition, granting Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists the authority to give medication orders for the patient further removes the physician from the patient's care and compromises their safety.

"Our organizations value the abilities and contributions of APRNs and all nurses. House Bill 216 goes too far to upset the collaborative effort already underway among all medical professionals. This proposal is unnecessary, over-reaching and unsafe."



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