



January 15, 2016

The Honorable Anne Gonzales  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 S. High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: House Bill 216 Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN)-Independent Practice

Dear Representative Gonzales:

We are writing in regards to House Bill 216, which is scheduled for proponent testimony on Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> in House Health & Aging Committee. Our organizations greatly value the role of APRNs and the care they provide to patients. We have committed to working with the sponsor to resolve issues of concern with the bill. ***However, we want to make it clear, that neither the introduced version nor the two substitute drafts that have circulated address our concerns, and, as a result, we still remain opposed to this legislation.***

HB 216 expands the scope of practice for APRNs, expands their ability to prescribe addictive schedule II drugs, and allows them to practice independently without physician collaboration. This bill is a significant departure from the current collaborative team-based model of care coordinated by a physician.

Our organizations have repeatedly demonstrated our commitment to improving Ohio's delivery of health care. We recently worked with the physician assistants in revising their scope of practice in recently enacted Senate Bill 110 and we worked with the pharmacists to revise consult agreements in recently enacted House Bill 188. We continue to stand ready to work with APRNs, the sponsor and the committee on this bill. We firmly believe that a team-based approach best serves Ohioans' health care needs and that patients deserve the expertise and involvement of a physician in their care. We look forward to further discussions regarding our concerns.

Thank you for your consideration.



Tim Maglione, JD  
Senior Director of Government Relations Ohio  
State Medical Association



Janet Shaw, MBA  
Executive Director  
Ohio Psychiatric Physicians Association



Jon Wills  
Executive Director  
Ohio Osteopathic Association



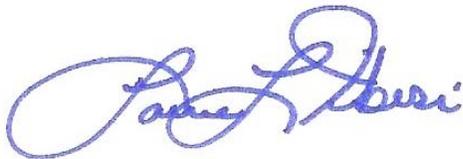
Melissa Wervey Arnold  
Executive Director  
Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of  
Pediatrics



Thomas Houston, MD  
President  
Ohio Academy of Family Physicians



Paul Wojokowski, MD  
President  
Ohio Society of Anesthesiologists



Laura L. Tiberi  
Executive Director  
Ohio American College of Emergency Physicians



Elayne Biddlestone  
Executive Vice President and CEO  
Academy of Medicine of Cleveland and  
Northern Ohio



Tisha Brady  
Legislative Director  
Ohio Chapter, American College of Surgeons