

Ohio Osteopathic Political Action Committee

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE General Election, November 2018

The **Ohio Osteopathic Political Action Committee** (OOPAC) serves as the political arm for the **Ohio Osteopathic Association** and supports candidates committed to protecting patient care by ensuring physicians serve as the leader in a team approach to medicine. Osteopathic physicians attend four years of medical school and train for 3-7 years (depending on their specialty) as a resident before becoming a practicing physician. Doctors of osteopathic medicine (DOs) are also required to participate in at least 100 hours of continuing medical education every two years to maintain licensure. We support candidates who promote patient safety and quality care by guaranteeing health care providers treat within their scope of practice.

The questionnaire will be shared with members of the Ohio Osteopathic Association. **Please complete and return it no later than October 22, 2018**, to ctatman@ooanet.org, by fax at 614-294-0457, or by mail at OOPAC, PO Box 8130, Columbus, OH 43201.

Candidate Name	Allison Russo, MPH, DrPH
Office & District	State Representative, HD-24
Candidate Phone Number	614-219-9102
Candidate Email Address	info@allisonrusso.com
Candidate Mailing Address	1850 Tewksbury Road, Columbus, OH 43221

1. Ohioans receive the best health care when physicians serve as leader in a team approach to medicine. Physicians are trained and licensed to provide comprehensive patient assessment and diagnosis and may order x-rays, chest scans, perform surgeries, and have full prescriptive authority. Physician extenders such as physician assistants, advanced practice registered nurses, physical therapists, and other providers have less education and training than physicians. However, organizations and lobbyists supporting physician extenders often pursue legislation granting access to patients that reach beyond their education and training, endangering patient care. **Would you support legislation that extends the scope of practice rights for physician extenders that would allow them to evaluate, test and treat patients without physician supervision?**

Yes

No

Comments I believe physician extenders play an important role in addressing the increasing demand for healthcare. Scope of practice laws should reflect the current education and training of each allied health professional.

2. Recently, HB 726 was introduced that would remove the collaboration agreement between APRNs (advanced practice registered nurses) and physicians. This bill comes in the wake of recent legislation that already addressed the issue. In 2016, after 18 months of working with elected officials and the nurses, the bill that was ultimately passed made amenable modifications to the APRN scope of practice, but did not include independent practice authority. Unfortunately, HB 726 jeopardizes optimum care by circumventing the physician-led, team-based approach. **Would you support or oppose HB 726?**

Support

☒ Oppose

Comments

3. Medicaid providers give care to those most in need of health care services. The state's Medicaid system has endured fluctuating federal funding the last several years. Far too often, the budget savings are proposed through a dramatic cut to Medicaid provider rates. These huge cuts will restrict access to health care for those who cannot seek treatment elsewhere. **As a legislator, would you support or oppose Medicaid provider rate cuts?**

Support

☒ Oppose

Comments I do not support cutting Medicaid reimbursement rates and believe keeping Medicaid provider rates competitive is necessary to maintain access to treatment and services for beneficiaries.

4. Analysis shows Medicaid expansion has reduced the number of uninsured Ohioans by half since its inception. Additionally, 96 percent of those needing treatment for opioid addiction received it and 37 percent of smokers were able to quit. Emergency room visits reduced 17 percent and the number of individuals seeing primary care doctors increased 10 percent. **Will you support Medicaid expansion and the corresponding state portion of funding?**

☒ Yes

No

Comments My first priority will be to protect the integrity of the Medicaid program and Medicaid Expansion in our state. Medicaid provides necessary coverage for our most vulnerable citizens, but it is also a key component of addressing the opioid crisis, improving birth outcomes, and providing necessary health services in rural and underserved communities.

5. The Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine is the state's largest medical school. Beginning in the spring of 2019, OU-HCOM will graduate 1,000 osteopathic physicians every four years. Further, OU-HCOM had the highest in-state match rate of the seven medical schools in 2018. Now more than ever, osteopathic physicians are benefiting health care throughout the state. To that end, **will you protect state funding for OU-HCOM as a means to benefit health access and provide quality health care in Ohio?**

☒ Yes

No

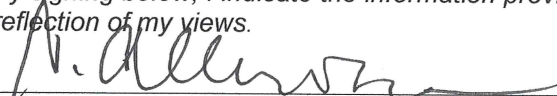
Comments As the population ages and our state continues to address issues such as opioid addiction, infant mortality, and chronic disease burden, the demand for healthcare, particularly primary care services and services in underserved areas, will continue to increase. Ensuring that our medical schools are well-

funded to supply osteopathic physicians to meet these rising healthcare needs is a priority for me.

6. Do you know a DO? If so, who are they and how are you connected to them?

Yes – Kristin Devor, DO, is my neighbor and a supporter of my campaign.

By signing below, I indicate the information provided above is true and the answers submitted are an honest reflection of my views.


Signature

10-22-18

Date