

SUBJECT: Improving End of Life Directives in Ohio

SUBMITTED BY: Ohio Osteopathic Association Board of Trustees

REFERRED TO:

1 **RESOLVED THAT THE FOLLOWING POLICY STATEMENT BE DELETED:**

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3 ~~WHEREAS, the Ohio legislature enacted Substitute House Bill (Sub HB) 354 “The DNR~~
4 ~~Law” in 1998, in order to assure that citizens of Ohio who are living with complex,~~
5 ~~debilitating and life limiting illness have the right to forego cardiopulmonary~~
6 ~~resuscitation in the case of cardiac arrest, and the DNR Task Force convened by the Ohio~~
7 ~~Department of Health developed rules for enacting the legislation which when followed~~
8 ~~provide immunity from prosecution for first responders and other health care providers;~~
9 ~~and~~

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11 ~~WHEREAS, Sub HB 354 did not provide financial support for the professional and~~
12 ~~consumer education necessary for proper understanding and implementation of the law~~
13 ~~leading to widespread misunderstanding and misinterpretation of the rules of the law; and~~
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15 ~~WHEREAS, the rules of the law as currently written fail to meet the needs of all~~
16 ~~individuals who would choose to use them and even fail to recognize the needs of a~~
17 ~~population which is ethnically and culturally increasingly diverse; and~~
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19 ~~WHEREAS, misinterpretation and misunderstanding of the rules of the law can even~~
20 ~~result in patient harm and neglect of patient’s actual wishes for care; and~~
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22 ~~WHEREAS, the DNR law as currently implemented is inadequate to function in tertiary~~
23 ~~care settings, and failure of professional caregivers in those settings to conform to the~~
24 ~~rules of the law can result in their losing the protection under the law for which it was~~
25 ~~written; and~~
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27 ~~WHEREAS, changes in the rules of the law which could be made simply and without the~~
28 ~~need for new legislation would greatly clarify and simplify implementation of the statute~~
29 ~~in Ohio; and~~
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31 ~~WHEREAS, innovative programs for end of life care such as Physician Orders for Life~~
32 ~~Sustaining Treatment “POLST“ and “Five Wishes” are currently being successfully~~
33 ~~implemented in many states across the US, including some of Ohio’s neighboring states;~~
34 ~~and~~
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36 ~~WHEREAS, many professional organizations in Ohio, including the Ohio Osteopathic~~
37 ~~Association, have participated in extensive discussions and work groups discussing how~~
38 ~~to improve the problems with Sub HB 354; now therefore be it~~
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40 ~~RESOLVED, that the Ohio Osteopathic Association continue to participate with other~~
41 ~~professional organizations in working toward development of new legislation or~~
42 ~~amendment of the rules of Sub HB 354 to better meet the needs of all Ohio citizens; and~~
43 ~~be it further~~

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45 ~~RESOLVED, that the Ohio Osteopathic Association encourage and support education of~~
46 ~~its membership on the rules Sub HB 354 so that they can better understand the law and~~
47 ~~help their patients to effectively utilize it; and be it further~~

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49 ~~RESOLVED, that the Ohio Osteopathic Association encourage the Ohio Department of~~
50 ~~Health to review recommendations made by the DNR Task Force convened by Ohio~~
51 ~~Hospice & Palliative Care Organization to make needed amendments to the current rules~~
52 ~~of Sub HB 354.~~

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54 **EXPLANATION: This resolution has been updated in a recent resolution**
55 **supporting Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (MOLST).**