



American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



Ohio Chapter



Ohio
ACEP

American College of Emergency Physicians

Advocacy | Education | Leadership



OHIO ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS



OHIO
OSTEOPATHIC
ASSOCIATION



November 1st, 2021

The Honorable Mike DeWine
Governor, State of Ohio
77 S. High St.
30th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Governor DeWine—

On behalf of the Ohio Fireworks Safety Coalition, a statewide organization with more than fifty members, we are writing today to request that you veto House Bill 172. We appreciate your attention to this matter and all that you and your administration have done to keep Ohioans, especially children, safe and healthy.

As you know, House Bill 172 is nearly identical to Senate Bill 113, which you vetoed earlier this year. We were very appreciative of the strong stand you took against fireworks discharge and the dangers posed by SB 113. While we understand the challenges caused by the first veto, we hope that you will stand firm and veto this harmful legislation as well.

Our coalition diligently engaged in the legislative process advocating for substantive changes in HB 172. We have tried to work with bill sponsors and supporters in the past and have offered many suggestions so that our coalition would move to a neutral position on this legislation. None of the necessary changes were accepted by the General Assembly. We believe, at the very least, this law change would be much more palatable to voters throughout Ohio if local jurisdictions were allowed to opt in to allowing discharge of these dangerous fireworks in their communities rather than forcing them to initiate local law changes. This legislation will undoubtedly lead to serious safety issues and even more law enforcement problems.

We recognize that HB 172, and its predecessor SB 113, have been amended significantly from what was debated by the General Assembly in the past. Our coalition does appreciate the changes that have been made, including provisions negotiated by your administration to advance HB 172. However, we simply cannot support legislation that allows statewide discharge of fireworks. They are inherently dangerous, and studies have consistently shown more injuries will occur.

If HB 172 is allowed to become law, we strongly urge your administration to encourage local governments to pass ordinances prohibiting discharge. We further urge that rules adopted by the State Fire Marshal regarding discharge will promote safety and oversight to the greatest extent possible. Our advocacy does not end when a bill is enacted, and we are committed to continuing our work to discourage the discharge of fireworks in Ohio. We appreciate your attention to this matter and all that you and your administration have done to keep Ohioans -- especially children -- safe and healthy. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Submitted on behalf of—

Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Prevent Blindness Ohio
Academy of Medicine of Cleveland and Northern Ohio
Ohio Academy of Family Physicians
Ohio Insurance Institute
Ohio Chapter, American College of Emergency Physicians
Ohio Osteopathic Association

Cc: Director Sheryl Maxfield, Ohio Department of Commerce
State Fire Marshal Kevin Reardon