

Candidate Questions

Tavia Galonski, Ohio Statehouse District 33

1) Should everyone have access to high-quality health care? Strongly agree

Comments: I have consistently voted for and signed onto legislation which would expand access to healthcare for all Ohioans.

2) Ohioans receive the best health care when physicians serve as the 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? No

Comments:

3) As a profession, the OOA highly values the physician-patient relationship. Physicians must be able to exercise their clinical judgment and practice evidence-based medicine without legislative or regulatory interference. Further, the OOA opposes any attempt to criminalize a physician's medical actions or treatment plans.

What is your feeling on this position? Strongly agree

Comments: It is outrageous that members of the Ohio GOP supported current legislation which would make physicians felons for performing abortions. This act alone will drive talent from Ohio.

4) As our state grappled with the COVID-19 pandemic last year, we saw medical misinformation and distrust of science compound the problem. Now, routine vaccinations among children are lagging behind pre-pandemic levels. Missing even one routine vaccine can disrupt a child's immunization schedule. Diseases like polio, rubella, measles, and whooping cough are rare today because of vaccinations.

Generally, do you support vaccines and immunizations as a way of preventing disease?

(example Hepatitis B, measles/mumps/rubella, polio, etc.) **Yes**

Comments: I personally receive every vaccination as soon as it is available. Vaccinations save lives. As a mother to my two children, I made it my purpose to vaccinate them on a regular schedule and according to doctors advice. As a grandmother, I go as far as I can to influence my grandson's parents into understanding and adhering to vaccination practices.

5) Legislation has been introduced in the Ohio Legislature several times (HB 221 this session) that would remove the collaboration agreement between advanced practice registered nurses and physicians. This proposal jeopardizes optimum care by circumventing the physician-led, team-based approach and allowing independent practice authority for APRNs.

Would you support or oppose HB 221 and similar legislation? Oppose

Comments: I am not a healthcare provider and I defer to you on what is best.

6) Medicaid providers care for 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, budget savings are proposed through cuts to Medicaid provider rates. These huge cuts would restrict access to health care for those who cannot seek treatment elsewhere.

As a legislator, would you support or oppose Medicaid provider rate cuts? Oppose

Comments:

7) The Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine (OU-HCOM) is the state's largest medical school. OU-HCOM now graduates 1,000 osteopathic physicians every four years. Further, OU-HCOM consistently maintains the highest in-state residency program match rate of the seven medical schools in Ohio. Now more than ever, osteopathic physicians are providing and 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

Comments: We need to make sure this funding stays in place to attract talent to Ohio.

8) **Do you know a DO? If so, who are they and how are you connected to them?**

I am not sure that I know one now but I was previously treated by Dr. Rimidio and he was great.