

# TOP ISSUES TO WATCH

ADVOCACY AGENDA • FALL 2017

*The Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA) advocacy team continues to monitor the major issues affecting the practice of medicine at the state and federal level. Meanwhile, the Ohio Legislature's fall sessions are in full swing. Stay tuned as the OSMA amplifies physician voices regarding a plethora of issues impacting the practice of medicine in our state. This fall, the OSMA plans to:*

## 1. Telemedicine Reimbursement

Provide key support for forthcoming legislation requiring health insurers to cover telemedicine services to the same extent that they would cover an in-person service. This will help ensure proper coverage for telemedicine, and is a valuable opportunity to increase access to critical patient care, particularly for Ohioans in underserved areas.

## 2. Maintenance of Certification (MOC)

Support legislation that would prohibit physicians from being required to secure a ***maintenance of certification (MOC)*** as a condition of obtaining medical licensure, reimbursement, employment, or admitting/surgical privileges at a hospital or health care facility. As hearings on [HB 273](#) commence, our Advocacy team will continue to support eliminating the burden that MOC places on physicians, and seek to address minor language revisions in the bill to create a more robust and beneficial legislative proposal.

## 3. Price Transparency

Continue dialogue toward an efficient, workable Ohio ***medical price transparency*** solution. The OSMA and Ohio Hospital Association (OHA) filed a lawsuit in December 2016 halting a flawed price transparency statute, inserted into an unrelated bill without stakeholder or public hearings. Any price transparency law ultimately enacted should not risk disruption in patient care due to impossible mandates imposed upon physicians and their practices.

## 4. Scope of Practice

Continue to push back in opposition against several bills that create unnecessary and/or inappropriate expansions in ***scope of practice*** for several allied health care professionals:

- [HB 326](#): Would give certain ***psychologists prescriptive authority for psychotropic drugs*** for the treatment of drug addiction and mental illnesses.
- [HB 191](#): Would give certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAS) ***independent practice and prescriptive authority***.
- [HB 131](#): Would grant ***physical therapists authority to diagnose medical conditions and order tests/imaging***.



## 5. Tort Reform

Support a bill strengthening existing **tort reform** statute. Ohio has experienced 10 years of declining and stable medical liability insurance rates due to prior tort reform accomplishments. This bill aims to do more, including reducing “shotgun lawsuits,” abolishing the “Loss of Chance” theory, and filling various loopholes. After several House hearings, the OSMA is hoping to build momentum and keep [HB 7](#) moving forward. To help, [visit our Advocacy Action Center](#) and tell your legislators that Ohio physicians need these protections!

## 6. In-Office Compounding

Work with the Ohio State Board of Pharmacy (OSBOP) to revise the overly burdensome current regulations on **physician in-office compounding**, which can cause patient care delays.

## 7. One-Bite Rule

Continue support for legislation maintaining the confidentiality and clarifying the eligibility requirements of the **“one-bite” substance use disorder treatment program for health care practitioners**. Earlier this year, the Ohio House passed [HB 145](#), and the OSMA will work to advance the bill through the Senate.

## 8. Medicaid Expansion “Freeze”

Speak out against the possible **legislative override of the governor’s veto of a medicaid expansion “freeze.”** The OSMA supported Medicaid expansion and Governor John Kasich’s efforts to veto the legislature’s “freeze” of expanded access under Medicaid. Under the “freeze,” no new Ohio Medicaid enrollees would be permitted after July 1, 2018, and those who leave the program could not regain coverage later. This would reduce Ohio’s Medicaid expansion population of about 700,000 by at least half. The Republican-controlled Legislature declined to vote on overriding this veto during the summer, despite approving several other overrides. However, the House and Senate have until the end of 2018 to revisit the issue, and the OSMA will firmly defend Medicaid expansion in the event this may occur.

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