

# Teams Work... for Patients

## *Ohio House Bill 216 undercuts team approach*

Patients are better served in Ohio because state lawmakers and other key stakeholders continue to value the important shift to team-based patient care.



The key to better health outcomes as well as cost containment in the health care system is coordinated care provided by a team of health care professionals who work in collaboration.

Every member of the team plays a critical role. Nurses, therapists, pharmacists, dieticians and others each do their part in a team *led by a physician*. The process is efficient and effective. It ensures the patient receives coordinated care while minimizing fragmented or unnecessary treatment and protecting patient safety.

**House Bill 216 threatens this process, just as the team-based approach is becoming firmly established throughout the state. House Bill 216 would allow Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) to essentially break from the team-based model and practice independently, with no requirement for physician collaboration.**

House Bill 216 can harm patient care because it:

- Eliminates required collaboration with physicians. There is no compelling evidence that requiring APRNs to partner with a physician poses a burden or limits their ability to provide care. Rather, both APRNs and physicians are integral to the health care team.
- Dismisses the education and training the physician brings to a team caring for a patient. Physicians have more than 11 years of diverse education including direct clinical care with patients, more than any other health care professional.
- Removes physicians from the anesthetic care team model. Patients requiring anesthesia are facing complex medical procedures and deserve care from a skilled team.
- Allows APRNs to independently prescribe addictive and dangerous Schedule II drugs without consulting the physician.

**House Bill 216 undermines team-based patient care**



**Ohio's physicians value the abilities and contributions of APRNs and all nurses. However, House Bill 216 goes too far to upset the collaborative effort already underway among all health care professionals.**

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