

# Candidate Questions

## Ted Jones, State Representative House District 80

1) 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? Yes**

**Comments: The American Medical Association has argued that NPs have too much autonomy and may cause problems for patients. However, Nurse Extenders that have demonstrated their competence will have the knowledge to know and understand when a patient needs to be seen by a doctor or specialist. In areas where doctors are in short supply, this seems to fill the gap between not having medical care and having it putting people at risk.**

2) HB 177, which would remove the collaboration agreement between APRNs (advanced practice registered nurses) and physicians, is being considered in the House Health Committee. The bill effectively allows independent practice authority for APRNs. Unfortunately, HB 177 jeopardizes optimum care by circumventing the physician-led, team-based approach.

**Would you support or oppose HB 177? Oppose**

**Comments: Realizing that a person that holds a license to practice as a physician assistant issued under Chapter 4730. of the Revised Code, that person may take any action that may be taken by an attending physician. However the obvious benefit from a physician-led team assessing the patient is clear. I would oppose the measure as I understand it.**

3) 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: Very simply I would oppose any measure to reduce access to, or reductions in the Medicare or Medicaid programs. For thousands of people Medicare and Medicaid are the only healthcare programs that people have access to. For every \$1.00 spent, Ohio receives approximately \$1.68 back though federal support to our state. The system pays. During the Kasich Administration the system worked and saved our state money. Gov. DeWine under pressure started cutting back the program.**

4) **As our state continues to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic, do you support the following to help slow the spread of the virus?**

- Masks/facial coverings: Yes
- Physical/social distancing: Yes
- Limited indoor gatherings: Yes
- A CDC-approved vaccine: No

5) **Generally, do you support vaccines and immunizations as a way of preventing disease? (Examples: Hepatitis B, measles/mumps/rubella, polio, etc.) Yes**

**Comments: I support vaccines and immunizations as an effective way to prevent and even eliminate diseases. With regard to the Covid-19 vaccine, I would withhold approval until through testing and evaluation trials were proven to be effective and safe with no severe side effects. Every medical professional that I have talked with has basically said the same thing.**

6) 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: I've been treated by Osteopathic Doctors all of my life. I have no reason to question their ability or medical skills.**

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

**James McNerney, DO is a practicing Family Care physician at Kettering Physician Network – Upper Valley Primary Care – Troy and Piqua location. Currently our family physician.**