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**Ohio
Ophthalmological
Society**

June 30th, 2021

The Honorable Mike DeWine
Governor, State of Ohio
77 South High Street
30th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: Veto Request for Senate Bill 113

Dear Governor DeWine—

On behalf of the Ohio Fireworks Safety Coalition, a statewide organization with more than fifty members, we are writing today to express our concerns with Substitute Senate Bill 113, which is awaiting your signature. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to share these comments and are grateful for your time and attention to this issue.

As you know, SB 113 would allow for fireworks discharge in the state of Ohio. This is certainly not a new issue for the Buckeye State and several pieces of legislation have been considered in recent years. Most have failed to reach the Governor's desk, with one exception being a bill that was vetoed by former Governor George Voinovich in 1997. Our coalition, which is comprised of advocates for children, veterans, animals, and elderly Ohioans remains deeply concerned over allowing fireworks discharge in Ohio.

While most states do allow discharge of fireworks, many include safeguards such as limits on the times of year of discharge or limits on certain types of devices. We are appreciative of some of the changes made to Senate Bill 113 during consideration by the General Assembly,

including limiting the days of discharge to specified holidays and time periods. While this is an improvement, we remain opposed to such a dramatic change to Ohio's fireworks laws.

We feel that there are better ways forward if there is an interest in changing Ohio's fireworks laws. We have urged lawmakers to explore more robust local government authority in terms of establishing regulations for discharge. Additionally, we would like to see discharge established as an 'opt-in' where local governments would have to proactively vote to allow discharge in their territory. We would also note that language related to industry licensure and moratoriums was already addressed in House Bill 74, therefore Senate Bill 113 is not necessary to address any time sensitive issues.

Our organizations have appreciated your commitment to Ohio children since taking office and throughout your career in public service. It is our hope that we can continue to work on this legislation with our partners in the General Assembly and find a solution that we can all support. With that in mind, we are respectfully asking that you veto Senate Bill 113 and encourage legislative leaders to pursue further changes to pending legislation related to fireworks discharge.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and dedication to the health and safety of all Ohioans.

Submitted on behalf of—

Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Prevent Blindness Ohio

Academy of Medicine of Cleveland and Northern Ohio

Ohio State Medical Association

Ohio Academy of Family Physicians

Ohio Insurance Institute

Ohio Ophthalmological Society

Ohio Chapter, American College of Emergency Physicians

Ohio Osteopathic Association