

The Honorable [Full name of Senator/Representative]
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43266

Dear Representative [last name]

I am writing you to urge support for passage of House Bill 125, which is in the House Civil and Commercial Law Committee. I am asking you to support this bill as introduced with no weakening amendments as a high priority. This bill is important to me as an osteopathic physician because it will help restore fairness in managed care contracting and improve patient access to my care.

As a family physician in Small Town, Ohio, I am currently a panel member of five different managed care plans. In order to provide continuity of care to my patients, I have tried to accommodate my patients by becoming a managed care panel member of their plan whenever possible. I am not an attorney, and have little or no bargaining power to change contract provisions. Each contract requires varies in format, requires different co-pays and fee schedules, drug formularies, and procedures to follow for referrals and prior authorization of care. A uniform contract with a clear summary of key provisions, would make it much easier to analyze contract terms from a business perspective without going through all of fine print.

In addition to contracting issues, HB 125 requires standardization of managed care credentialing. Although the Physician Health Plan Partnership Act was supposed to have resulted in a standardized credentialing form several years ago, applications still vary substantially from company to company and are time consuming to complete with the same information over and over again. A standardized form would simplify the time it takes for me to complete multiple applications for multiple companies.

HB 125 would also prevent health plans from requiring me to sign “all products clauses” and “most favored nation clauses” without the information I need to make informed choices. In addition, provisions in the bill, to require on-line enrollment verification for patient information I need, will help insure my patients’ ability to receive timely and efficient care.

As a small business, it is becoming harder for me every day to provide care for patients. While my fees have been capped under managed care plans, my expenses continue to rise due to increased administrative burdens, inflation, and the high cost of professional liability insurance premiums. I believe that HB 125 will help ease the administrative burdens of my office and help restore balance in managed care contracting.

Sincerely,

[your name]
[your home mailing address]

CC Ohio Osteopathic Association