



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Chiropractic Medicaid Substitute Bill Introduced in Committee, OSCA Provides Testimony

(Columbus, OH) Today, the OSCA offered proponent testimony on House Bill 102 (Lipps) to the House Health Committee. The bill's original version, which was introduced back in February, would require the Ohio Department of Medicaid to cover the full scope of practice for all Doctors of Chiropractic.

However, a new version of the bill was introduced during the committee hearing. This version (Sub. H.B. 102) would require Medicaid to cover evaluation and management (E/M) services. The sub bill also states that a patient can seek care from a Doctor of Chiropractic without prior authorization limitations or referrals, and that DCs would be reimbursed consistently with other healthcare professionals, for the same service they provide.

In her testimony, OSCA Director of Chiropractic Services Dr. Brandy Spaulding pointed out the disparity that DCs face, as the initial visit is a covered service within Medicaid when performed by other health care providers. The lack of coverage of E/M services creates a roadblock for many of those insured by Medicaid to actually receive chiropractic treatment due to the financial burden.

It is important to note that while this version was not the intended version introduced by the OSCA, it still has the organization's support. The initial visit is not only necessary before starting treatment, but is a required component in the standard of care for a Doctor of Chiropractic. The inclusion of E/M services, on average, would allow Doctors of Chiropractic to be reimbursed \$127 more per patient. While it is not full scope, it is still a win for the profession.

The OSCA will not stop fighting for our original version of the bill, which would reimburse DCs for the full scope. The sponsor of the bill believes the newer version of the bill can pass in a shorter time, which is why it has the support from the OSCA. While the fight for full scope is far from over, this is still a good step forward.

The sub bill was accepted by the committee with unanimous consent.

If you have any questions, please contact the OSCA offices.

What can you do to ensure this bill's passage and full scope coverage? Call your representative. Attend the OSCA's advocacy days. But most importantly, you and every other DC in Ohio should join the OSCA. With each and every Ohio DC as a member, it would be more difficult for statehouse leaders to strip back our bills intentions. They would have a stronger reason to pass our legislation. With everyone's voice and support, the OSCA and Doctors of Chiropractic would be impossible to ignore.