



Opponent Testimony SB 81
Jonathan Scharfstein, MD
President, The Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio
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Chair Cutrona, Vice Chair Gross, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the House Health Provider Services Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today in opposition to Senate Bill 81.

The Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio (AMCNO), founded in 1824, is the region's professional medical association and the oldest professional association in Ohio. We are a non-profit 501(c)6 representing physicians and medical students from all the contiguous counties in Northern Ohio. We are proud to be the stewards of Cleveland's medical community of the past, present, and future.

The mission of the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio is to support physicians in being strong advocates for all patients and promote the practice of the highest quality of medicine.

On behalf of our 6,700 members and their patients, I ask you to oppose SB 81.

We as physicians are acutely aware of the behavioral health workforce challenges faced by Ohio. We live with them every day as we try to meet the needs of our patients. But changing signature authority does not address the underlying causes of provider shortages. Rather, it serves to further distance patients from their physicians.

Psychiatrists in Ohio undergo tens of thousands of hours over more than a decade of training to be able to serve their communities' complex mental health needs. These physicians work collaboratively on treatment plans with other health providers on their care teams and through standard care arrangements. By changing the signature authority over these plans, patients are losing out on ensuring their care is managed by highly-trained physicians.

The AMCNO is proud to support team-based care when it is physician-led, and we believe signature authority is best held by a board-certified physician.

We thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to SB 81.

