

# Candidate Questions

## Gary Click, State Representative District 88

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? No**

**Comments: This undermines physicians who have invested in the education necessary to provide the best care for patients and decreases the quality of medical care that every patient deserves.**

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: Patients deserve the highest quality of care.**

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:**

**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: No
- A CDC-approved vaccine: Yes

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

**Comments: You left no space for comments on Q4 so I will use this space. The answer depends on the meaning of the word support. I believe in appropriate checks and balances and do not support unilateral decisions made by an unelected official. I believe education is better than mandates but if there are madates they should be subject to legislative review. The legislature is answerable to the citizens and is just as capable of reviewing the science and drawing conclusions as any other official.**

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 medicals 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:**

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

**Yes. Zachary West. Supporter.**