

# Candidate Questions

## Chris Liebhold, 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: Physicians have far more clinical instruction and requirements than any other advanced practice position. I believe in the team approach.**

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: The team based approach is essential to maintain appropriate care for patients. While there are likely many quality APRNs out there, they lack the extensive education and clinical training of a physician.**

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: I believe in protecting the most vulnerable in society, and would not, especially during a pandemic reduce spending on medicaid.**

**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: Yes
- 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: Yes. I believe high vaccination rates are an important part of a healthy society.**

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 medical 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: Yes. It is important to have quality school's of medicine in our state. We need to make sure that we continue to produce quality physicians that will remain in our state to serve Ohioans.**

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

**Yes, Dr. George Stepanic, Dr. Kurt Harrison, and Dr. John Yuhas. Dr. Stepanic treated my sister and I also helped to coach his kids in track. Dr. Harrison has a relationship with my law firm, and I also know him from watching his kids play football and participate at my alma mater. One of my sister's is a medical assistant at Dr. Yuhas office in Clyde. I should also note that my wife is an RN/MPH, my mother-in-law is a psychiatrist, and my father-in-law is a pharmacist. When these issues come up in the General Assembly, I will have plenty of familial connections to draw from.**