



**Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee
Wednesday, December 7, 2016**

**Written Comments of Miranda Creviston Motter
President and CEO, Ohio Association of Health Plans**

Chairman Coley, Vice Chairman Seitz, thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments on House Bill 34, a measure that would allow Ohio to suspend the operation of all federal laws, rules, regulations, and orders regarding health care that are inconsistent with Ohio laws adopted pursuant to the Compact.

The Ohio Association of Health Plans (OAHP) is the leading state trade association representing the health insurance industry. OAHP members provide health benefits to more than 9 million Ohioans through employer-sponsored coverage, the individual insurance market, and public programs such as Medicare, Medicaid and the Health Insurance Exchange marketplace. Our members offer a broad range of health insurance products to Ohioans in the commercial marketplace and are committed partners in public programs.

In the coming months, we believe Congress will begin debating and implementing changes to the federal health care reform law. In fact, efforts are already underway to gather critical input from states – both the state insurance commissioners and the Governors -- to inform this process of developing public policies and strategies that will strengthen and improve health care for all Americans.

Given this environment of collaboration and joint efforts between the federal and state governments, we respectfully request that the Ohio General Assembly refrain from moving forward with House Bill 34 and any other legislation that might unintentionally interfere with this opportunity to achieve the shared goal of enacting health care reform that lowers costs and improves quality for Ohio's health care consumers.

With that said, OAHP appreciates the efforts of the bill's sponsors and the work of this committee. However, we respectfully request that this Committee refrain from moving forward on House Bill 34 at this time. OAHP stands ready to partner with both state and federal policymakers as we move forward over the next few weeks and months to build a more sustainable health care delivery system in our State.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on behalf of OAHP and its member plans.