

July 21, 2022

Sent via email to:

Governor Mike DeWine  
Riffe Center,  
30th Floor, 77 South High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

*Re: **Concerns regarding Mr. Gonidakis' reappointment  
to the Ohio Medical Board***

Governor Mike DeWine,

We, Physicians in Ohio, object to the reappointment of Mr. Mike Gonidakis to the Ohio State Medical Board. For the past two terms, Mr. Gonidakis has had an unrectifiable conflict of interest given his activity as a healthcare lobbyist and concurrent role as President of Ohio Right to Life. Additionally, Mr. Gonidakis has repeatedly demonstrated anti-science beliefs. He cannot hold an unbiased position of power overseeing greater than 90,000 medical licenses in the state of Ohio during this chaotic and confusing post-Roe era.

Mr. Gonidakis' position on the Medical Board has been ethically questionable for some time now. He is a registered lobbyist who has been paid to represent at least eight medical marijuana companies, as well as pain management, and medical regulation organizations. Most acutely troubling, however, is the extreme personal positions Mr. Gonidakis has taken when it comes to reproductive rights. As President of Ohio Right to Life he has said he believes all abortion should be illegal, even before the current six-week cutoff and without exception for rape or incest. While previously problematic, his conflict of interest now threatens law and oath-abiding healthcare professionals. Recently, Mr. Gonidakis was cited in the Columbus Dispatch on July 15, 2022, "If a prosecutor refuses to prosecute, the medical board can still take action on the license" using further threatening language stating "the greatest deterrent [to performing an abortion] is the threat of losing your license to practice". He has demonstrated a clear agenda to attack the professional licenses of doctors who do not fit his personal beliefs, even if compliant with standards of care and state law.

Further anti-science and anti-medicine statements have been clear through Mr. Gonidakis' social media. He has spread dangerous misinformation by questioning all COVID19 vaccination via Twitter on 2/23/21 stating "there is absolutely no reason to get the vaccine" when medical expert opinion and CDC recommendations were already in place. On 2/19/22, he continued to

tout anti-vaccination statements such as “Nobody should get a 4th [COVID19] shot”. As a member of the medical board, he may have endangered the lives of Ohioans by spreading misinformation that is clearly contrary to medical and scientific recommendations. An anti-science board representative poses an immediate threat to the medical board’s integrity, medical professionals, and Ohioans at large.

A person accepting money as a healthcare lobbyist with a personal agenda cannot be entrusted to fairly oversee the licensure of healthcare professionals. When his term expires at the end of the month, we are calling on you, Governor DeWine - do not reinstate Mike Gonidakis. It is clear that his conflicts of interest, extreme personal positions, and stances contrary to medical science and public safety should disqualify him from a reappointment.

Signed,



**Doctors for America  
Ohio Chapter**  
DoctorsforAmerica.org



**Doctors Organized for Healthcare  
Solutions**  
DOCHSmd.com



**Ohio Physicians for  
Reproductive Rights**  
[OhioReproRights.org](http://OhioReproRights.org)  
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**Physician Action Network**  
PhysicianActionNetwork.com



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