

SB-213

Initially the 2006 Senate Bill 213 passed the Ohio Senate by a vote of 33 – 0. It then had had five hearings in the House Health Committee. A sponsor hearing was held on May 17, 2006 and proponent and opponent hearings were held on May 24, November 15, and November 29, 2006 . At the November hearings, the Ohio Psychiatric Association and the Ohio Psychology Association opposed our bill. During the lame duck session, SB-213 language was added to HB-87 by amendment passed the Ohio Senate by a vote of 30 – 0, however, the Ohio House would not agree to the changes in House Bill 87. In a final effort, SB-213 language was added to HB-524 and was again passed by the Ohio Senate but once again the House would not agree to the Senate changes in their bill. Throughout the Senate and House hearings, Dr. F. Robert Wilson (OMHCA Legislative Chair) and Ms. Carol Pohly (OCA Legislative Chair) provided proponent testimony and many Ohio PCCs wrote letters and e-mail messages in support . OMHCA extends its appreciation to Senator Patricia Clancy and Lobbyist Carolyn Towner for the hours of work they put into attempting to enhance public safety by advocating for this bill. (Adapted from Towner, C., Ohio Counseling Association: Legislative Report, 01/19/2007).