

Ohio bill would shield doctors who say 'My fault'

December 2 2014, by Andrew Welsh-Huggins



This undated photo provided by the Ohio House of Representatives shows Rep. Peter Stautberg. Doctors want to expand Ohio law by keeping conversations with patients or families where they admit fault in a medical procedure from being used as evidence in malpractice lawsuits. While Ohio law already includes protection for apologies by doctors, a bill sponsored by Stautberg, a Cincinnati Republican, would shield statements that take responsibility or acknowledge mistakes. (AP Photo/HO, Ohio House of Representatives)

A proposal in Ohio would allow doctors to acknowledge fault for a mistake to patients or their relatives without fear of the admission being used later in malpractice lawsuits.

The bill sponsored by Rep. Peter Stautberg, a Cincinnati Republican, would shield statements that take responsibility or acknowledge mistakes.

Tim Maglione (mag-lee-OHN') of the Ohio State Medical Association says [doctors](#) are still reluctant to sit down with patients out of fear an apology could be misconstrued.

The Senate is expected to hold hearings next week on the House-approved bill.

Ohio's legislation is similar to a bill pending in Congress. Several other states also have similar laws.

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