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May 20, 2015

The Honorable Representative Anne Gonzalez
House Building
1 Capitol Square, Second Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Honorable Gonzalez and Members of the House Health and Aging Committee,

I would like to draw your attention to House Bill 188 also known as the pharmacist consult agreement legislation.

As a constituent and a physician, it's important to me that my neighbors and my patients are able to receive safe and effective care by pharmacists at the health systems and pharmacies in our community.

Pharmacists are increasingly taking on more direct patient care responsibilities, like monitoring patient responses to their medicines, preventing undesired drug interactions, and ensuring that patients taking multiple medications do not receive overlapping, duplicative, or contraindicated therapies.

Collaborative drug therapy management (CDTM) is the combined effort of the healthcare team, specifically the pharmacist and the physician, in order to assist the patient in reaching safe and effective medication results. The current Ohio CDTM or consult agreement statute (ORC 4729.39) significantly hampers the ability of the pharmacist to effectively assist patients in reaching their healthcare goals.

Coronary artery disease and diabetes can significantly impact the health of Ohioans often leading to heart attack, heart surgeries, stroke, blindness and dialysis. Often these diseases are treated with multiple medications, increasing the complexity and cost for patient. These diseases can be effectively managed with the help of the pharmacist. Changes in the statute would ensure that patients receive the safest, most effective medicines to treat their conditions and support compliance with drug therapies.

We have worked in a AHRQ-certified Patient Centered Medical Home associated with Summa Health System hospitals. Using this model we have worked closely with pharmacists and pharmacy residents to dramatically improve care for thousands of patients. It is critical that this approach be available to patients

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being followed in private physicians offices, as well. The proposed bill removes obstacles to allow collaboration with pharmacy in the care of our patients to be expanded, with safeguards, to settings where many other Ohioans receive treatment.

Please consider adding your support to the bill. This bill, if signed into law, will allow pharmacists a greater role around improving patient care for all Ohioans. I would welcome the opportunity to begin an ongoing dialogue with your office about health care and medication-use issues. I will follow up with your office to discuss any questions you may have.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron R. Jones MD". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Sincerely,
Ron R Jones MD
Associate Director Internal Medicine Center
Summa Health System
Akron, Ohio 44304