

The Honorable Anne Gonzales
Chairwoman, Ohio House Health and Aging Committee
77 S. High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairwoman Gonzalez:

Healthcare delivery is evolving from a fee for service episodic care paradigm to a more global or population health management model. To be successful in this emerging health-care delivery system, it is imperative that state law allows us to better treat our patients in the ambulatory setting, keeping them out of the hospital in the first place. This will not only decrease health-care costs, but will also improve health in the state of Ohio.

In order to serve patients effectively now and in the future, it is important for physicians to practice in a collaborative practice model. This multi-disciplinary care team model includes physicians, pharmacists, dietitians, case managers, physician's assistants, nurses and nurse practitioners. Effective care allows all disciplines to practice at the "top of their license." Physicians must serve as the quarterback, guiding a team of experts in our clinics.

House Bill HB 188 allows us to better leverage the unique knowledge of the pharmacist to help the team treat chronic diseases such as hypertension, diabetes and lipid disorders. The changes to the Pharmacy Collaborative Act in this bill will reduce bureaucratic hurdles such as the one patient, one physician, one pharmacist language in the original law. This bill will also allow systems such as the Cleveland Clinic to better use our pharmacists in our Primary Care and Medicine Clinics.

Allowing pharmacists, under a collaborative practice agreement, to add, subtract and modify medications for patients will make our offices more efficient, increase our ability to see more patients and ultimately help decrease healthcare costs and improve patient outcomes.

As a physician who is committed to decreasing healthcare costs and improving quality, I strongly support HB 188. A periodic review and audit of outcomes and quality metrics should be incorporated with this bill.

Sincerely,



Robert Lorenz, MD
Medical Director, Payment Reform, Risk and Contracting