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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 am writing in support of the Ohio House Bill 188 that modifies the current pharmacist consult agreement legislation.

I have had the good fortune of working closely with pharmacists in both the inpatient and outpatient clinical settings since the 1990's. As Chairman of our hospital's Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee and a fulltime member of the teaching faculty, I have directly observed how our clinical pharmacists improve the quality and value-based application of health care in the hospital. As Medical Director of a large (60 physician) hospital-linked ambulatory care center, I can attest to the positive impact that our collaborative pharmacists have had on patient care, patient and provider education, cost-containment, medication safety, and patient adherence. These pharmacists have also been essential in addressing accountable care and meaningful use metrics, developing a patient centered medical home model, and assisting with clinical research.

Because our practice is under the aegis of a hospital, we have avoided the current cumbersome collaboration process required by Ohio statutes. The statutes have, however, made collaboration for most practices prohibitively difficult.

I hope that you and your House colleagues will join me in support of House Bill 188. House Bill 188 promises to improve the health care for Ohio's citizens while helping to control health care costs that burden the state and its taxpayers.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Rich, MD
Medical Director, Internal Medicine Center
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