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Senate Health and Human Services Committee  
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Thank you Chairwoman Jones, Vice Chair Lehner, Ranking Member Tavares, and members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony for Senate Bill 141 today.

There are many uncertainties in life. These uncertainties are amplified when you have a disease such as diabetes that requires daily maintenance and medication in order to survive. That is why I have introduced legislation that will allow those with imminent need to acquire life-saving medication in the State of Ohio.

Senate Bill 141 follows the death of 36-year-old Kevin Houdeshell of Avon Lake, Ohio – a young man who died just days after his insulin prescription ran out and he was unable to secure a refill from his pharmacy due to current regulations.

This is a scenario that many other diabetes patients could face and we must ensure that what happened to Kevin does not happen again. Pharmacists are increasingly taking an active role in the health care goals of their patients and Senate Bill 141 would allow patients and pharmacists to more effectively monitor outcomes.

Kevin was young and active with a long-life ahead of him as he managed his diabetes. A lapsed prescription and unfortunate timing should not have denied this young man from receiving the life-saving medication that he sought out. Ensuring quick and efficient access to such medication is the focus of this legislation.

I want to stress that this bill does not give pharmacists independent prescriptive authority, as only those pharmacists acting under a consult agreement may prescribe and continue to be limited to the terms of their agreement outlined by a physician.

Thank you Chairwoman and I encourage your support for this legislation. I also want to thank Senator Burke for his leadership and expertise on this issue. I am happy to entertain any questions the committee may have at this time.