

The Honorable Shannon Jones
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square, 1st Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Jones,

I am writing to you in support of Senate Bill 141, the pharmacist consult agreement legislation. I am an advanced practice nurse (APRN) that specializes in Palliative Care. I work at Akron General Medical Center and have been collaborating with a Pharmacist, Jessica Boss, Pharm D., to care for my patients since 2010.

Palliative Care is an interdisciplinary specialty. We work as a team to provide total patient care to anyone with a life limiting illness, from diagnosis to end of life. Each discipline provides vital input. Our Palliative Care team at Akron General consists of one pharmacist, four APRNs, one RN, and two physicians. Dr. Boss is our symptom management expert. Her training and expertise help the team provide optimal symptom control through drug therapy management. Collaborating with our physicians Dr. Boss titrates medication doses, alters drug therapy, and counsels patients on new and existing medications. I have witnessed firsthand how patients value her expertise when it comes to the medications they are taking.

Working closely with Dr. Boss has made me a better practitioner. As an APRN and prescriber, I received one semester of Pharmacology while pursuing my masters. Dr. Boss truly taught me everything I know about medication management in Palliative Care. She continues to be an active educator and mentor for our team. Her passion and diligence to provide the best drug therapy care is truly an asset to our team.

The current Ohio Collaborative Drug Therapy Management or consult agreement statute (ORC 4729.39) significantly hampers the ability of the pharmacist to effectively assist patients in reaching their healthcare goals. The changes in the statute being considered would ensure that patients receive the safest, most effective medicines to treat their conditions and support compliance with drug therapies. It is important to point out that, compared to other prescribing members of the healthcare team; pharmacists receive more formal education and training on the safe and effective use of medications. *They truly are medication experts!*

This bill, if signed into law, will allow pharmacists a greater role around improving patient care for all Ohioans.

Sincerely,



Gillian Myers, MSN, RN, ACNS-BC, ACHPN, OCN
Akron General Medical Center
1 Akron General Avenue
Akron, OH 44307