

Chairman Blessing and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my story today.

My name is Bob Fowler.

I am here today as a North Ridgeville resident, a college professor, and a cancer patient.

And I am one of thousands of people across Ohio who is desperate for relief from skyrocketing drug prices.

For the last 9 years, I have taken the drug Revlimid to treat my incurable blood cancer.

Every 28 days I receive 21 capsules of Revlimid for which myself and my insurance company pay a total of \$13,600. There are 13 of these 28-day cycles in a year, so sitting before you today is \$177,000 a year worth of drugs.

One of the factors driving up the price of my drugs is pharmacy benefit managers.

As a patient, I have dealt with the intricacies of insurance, hospitals, and more, but I was horrified to learn, while hearing about this legislation, about the immense power pharmacy benefit managers, or PBMs, hold over the price of drugs.

PBMs often write secret contracts that prohibit my local pharmacist from discussing the cheapest option for me to get my medications. PBMs are a black box in the drug distribution pipeline. They insert "clawbacks" into contracts that can drive up costs and impede availability of medications at our pharmacies.

I depend on my relationships with medical providers, such as pharmacists, to ensure that I can access the drugs I need to survive at the most affordable price.

Unfortunately, under current law, there is no way for me to protect myself from PBMs' shenanigans. That's why I cancelled two classes today to be here to urge you to pass HB 479.

This bill would protect my right to have an honest, open conversation with my pharmacist. It would protect cancer patients like myself from secretive cost sharing plans. And it will ensure that pharmacies are able to stock my medications without fear of punishment from nationwide PBMs.

I want to live many more years in spite of my blood cancer. To have a shot at that, I need two things: life-saving drugs, at an affordable price.

On behalf of myself and so many other Ohioans, please vote YES on HB 479.

Thank you for your time.