



OFFICE AND WAREHOUSE
211 Commerce Drive
Medina, Ohio 44256-1398
(330) 725-2340

December 10, 2018

Representative Louis W. Blessing
Government Accountability & Oversight Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street 13th floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chair Blessing:

We write this letter to express our **strong interest and support for Senate Bill 265**. We are certain that greater use of pharmacists can only lead to better health outcomes for all Ohioans. We applaud Senator Dolan for his leadership on this bill.

Senate Bill 265 will finally knock down the walls surrounding pharmacists. Many sections of **current Ohio law do NOT recognize pharmacists** as healthcare providers. Lack of recognition has resulted in involuntary consequences including unacceptable medication adherence rates. Recognizing pharmacists as healthcare providers will allow better interactions with doctors- nurses- hospitals- health plans and health care teams- **ensuring better health outcomes** for Ohioans.

Discount Drug Mart continues to be a family run business. **Our founder- a pharmacist-** opened our first location in Elyria in 1969. Today- we operate 75 stores pharmacies in communities and neighborhoods throughout Ohio. We employ more 3,700 Ohioans including 239 pharmacists. Discount Drug Mart stands ready to work with Ohio's doctors, nurses- hospitals- health plans and health care teams- and **we believe that Senate Bill 265 will allow us to better serve Ohioans.**

We thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Respectfully-

Pete Ratycz, R.Ph.
Senior V.P. of Pharmacy

Steve Ferris
Government & Public Affairs Director

Cc Senate President Larry Obhof
State Representative Stephen Hambley

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 12-10-18

Name: STEVE FERRIS

Are you representing: Yourself _____ Organization

Organization (If Applicable): DISCOUNT DRUG MART

Position/Title: GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR

Address: 211 COMMERCE DRIVE

City: MEDINA State: OHIO Zip: 44256

Best Contact Telephone: 2162626522 Email: SFERRIS@DISCOUNT-DRUGMART.COM
(I THINK I'M ALREADY ON IT)

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No _____

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): SB 265

Specific Issue: _____

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent _____ Interested Party _____

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No _____

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? N/A (SUBMISSION IS WRITTEN

TESTIMONY)

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

PLEASE SEE LETTER

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.