



To: Members of the Ohio House Health Committee

Fr: Monica Hueckel, Senior Director of Government Relations, Ohio State Medical Association
Joe Rosato, Director of Government Relations, Ohio State Medical Association

Da: June 25, 2019

Re: HB 29 – Dextromethorphan Sales

On behalf of the nearly 16,000 physician, resident and medical student members of the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA), we write in support of House Bill 29.

As you know, this legislation would prohibit the sale of dextromethorphan without a prescription to any individual under the age of 18. An emerging trend of abuse of dextromethorphan, the active ingredient in cough syrup, by youth has caught the attention of many health care professionals. Our OSMA physician members, particularly those who receive young patients in emergency departments, have treated such patients. When ingested in high dosages, patients may experience alarming symptoms such as dizziness, double or blurred vision, slurred speech, confusion, loss of physical coordination, vomiting, or rapid heartbeat and may require emergency medical attention.

House Bill 29 limits access to this medication by children. Those children and teenagers who need this medication for medical reasons will still have two avenues by which to receive it: either through presenting a valid prescription at the time of purchase, or by having their parent or legal guardian purchase it for them. This small measure can go a long way in preventing youth under the age of 18 from easily obtaining large quantities of dextromethorphan with the intention to abuse it. At least 12 other states in the U.S. have passed similar legislation to protect their children, and the OSMA supports HB 29 in order to add Ohio to that list of states.

As always, the OSMA appreciates the opportunity to be meaningful contributors to the legislative process. Please contact us with any questions you may have.