



State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy - Proponent Testimony for SB 59

Chairman Lipps, Ranking Member Boyd, and members of the House Health Committee. My name is Cameron McNamee and I am the Director of Policy and Communications for the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy (Board).

I am submitting written proponent testimony on behalf of SB 59 and a proposed amendment that the committee will review today. The Board appreciates the work done by Senator Antonio on this legislation and feels that the proposed amendment will further bolster access to lifesaving medication.

The proposed amendment for consideration by the Committee would allow the Board of Pharmacy to expand, in rule, which licensees are able to conduct certain wholesale sales of dangerous drugs (i.e. prescription medications) without needing a wholesaler license. The purpose of the amendment is to permit EMS squads to quickly restock dangerous drugs from freestanding emergency departments rather than having to drive longer distances to restock at hospitals.

Hospitals are one of the primary sources of controlled substances and other dangerous drugs for local EMS agencies. With the advent of freestanding emergency departments, there are now additional opportunities to replenish EMS squads if they transport a patient to a freestanding ED. However, Ohio law only permits wholesale sales of drugs from pharmacies (which freestanding emergency departments typically do not have). To remove this barrier and allow freestanding EDs to supply EMS agencies with drugs, the Board is requesting the adoption of the proposed amendment.

By allowing local EMS to quickly and easily replenish drug stock, this amendment furthers the legislation's goal of ensuring improved access to lifesaving medication. The amendment has the support of the Cleveland Clinic, Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association, Ohio Hospital Association, Ohio Pharmacists Association, and Premier Health. During the vetting process, the Board did not receive any negative feedback on the amendment language.

On behalf of the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy, I thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Ohio SB 59. Should the committee members have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly by phone (614-466-7322) or email (cameron.mcnamee@pharmacy.ohio.gov).

