



State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy - Proponent Testimony for HB 673

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State and Local Government 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 the pharmacy-related provisions contained within HB 673. The Board appreciates the work done by Representative Roemer to ensure pharmacy professionals are appropriately utilized to provide critical COVID-19 services such as testing and immunizations.

Recently, the Board of Pharmacy issued guidance that licensed pharmacists are considered "qualified persons" under the federal PREP act. As the PREP act preempts any state or local legal requirements, pharmacists are currently permitted to order and administer FDA-authorized COVID-19 testing. The authority granted to pharmacists is temporary and is subject to rescission or modification by the Secretary of Health and Human Services. This legislation seeks to codify this authority in Ohio law so that pharmacists can remain a vital part of the state's COVID-19 response. Additionally, the Board is working with the sponsor to incorporate other portions of the Board's guidance (www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/COVIDtest) to further expand the state's testing capacity by permitting pharmacy interns and certified pharmacy technicians to administer COVID-19 testing.

The Board also supports provisions to expand pharmacist and pharmacy intern immunization authority. HB 673 would expressly permit pharmacists and pharmacy interns, who have completed immunization training requirements set by the Board, to administer COVID-19 immunizations pursuant to a physician-approved protocol.

On behalf of the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy, I thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Ohio HB 673. 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).

