



OHIO PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION

2674 Federated Blvd., Columbus, OH 43235 • Phone: (614) 389-3236 • Fax: (614) 389-4582
May 24, 2016

Testimony on SB 319 before the Ohio Senate Health & Human Services Committee
Ernest Boyd, R.Ph., MBA, Executive Director, Ohio Pharmacists Association

Chairwoman Jones, Vice Chair Lehner, Ranking Member Tavares, and members of the Senate Health & Human Services Committee; I'm Ernest Boyd, a pharmacist and the Executive Director of the Ohio Pharmacists Association. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to speak in support of SB 319, which would give the Ohio State Board of Pharmacy registration and regulation authority over Ohio's pharmacy technicians.

I would like to first answer the question: What is a pharmacy technician? At a basic level, pharmacy technician is a pharmacist's administrative assistant, who runs the cashier, facilitates questions for the pharmacist, assists with insurance coverage and questions, counts pills, answers phones, and assists with the pharmacy inventory process. Pharmacy technicians are an instrumental part of helping the pharmacist ensure that a patient receives the right dose of the right medication so that they can stay healthy.

This legislation will allow the Ohio State Board of Pharmacy to require that technicians be registered with the board, and have several training and educational requirements. It also allows for a higher level of technician to be nationally certified, entitling them to be engaged in compounding sterile products. We support these changes to allow the Board to more adequately monitor the actions of technicians, and revoke their registrations or provide other disciplinary measures, if appropriate.

We also support the maximum quantity of a 90 day supply for opiates, and the provision for 30 day expiration on opiate prescriptions. We appreciate the work of the sponsors to incorporate some of our suggestions into the legislation. I am happy to take any questions.