



*Bringing physicians together
for a healthier Ohio*

To: Members of the Ohio House Health Committee

Fr: Tim Maglione, JD, Senior Director, Ohio State Medical Association
Monica Hueckel, Director, Ohio State Medical Association

Da: June 19, 2017

Re: HB 231 – Require dispensing of prescription drugs in lockable container

On behalf of the 16,000 physician, resident and medical student members of the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA), our organization **is writing to express support for House Bill 231.**

The OSMA has been an active participant in the efforts to curb the drug abuse epidemic in Ohio for several years, collaborating extensively with the Legislature, the state administration, regulatory entities, and other health care organizations. As we continue to address the matter at hand, we believe that our approach must account for individuals who obtain access to addictive drugs by pilfering them from relatives or friends, and the OSMA believes that HB 231 is a fiscally-responsible and rational tool to begin doing so.

HB 231 would require pharmacists to offer either locking and/or tamper-evident vials on packaging of certain prescription medications. It will not be a requirement for patients to accept this type of pill vial, but rather presented as an opportunity to opt-in to its use. By doing so, the patient will be able to either prevent pilfering of the medication by others to whom it is not prescribed, or tell if a medication bottle has been tampered with. These types of bottles are already sold in various states, and the products are not known to be costly.

Along with treating those already impacted by addiction, Ohio must also take advantage of any reasonable opportunity we are presented with to prevent addiction before it begins. Through HB 231, Ohio's patients, particularly those who are parents or relatives of others vulnerable to addiction or relapse of addiction would benefit from the availability of these lockable or tamper-evident vials – as the vials can either provide them with the knowledge that someone close to them might be developing a problem, or prevent their medications from getting into the wrong hands altogether.

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

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