



May 22, 2018

The Honorable Jay Hottinger, Chair
Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee
Ohio Senate
1 Capital Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Hottinger,

On behalf of the Ohio Association of Health Plans (OAHP), thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony on SB 265, legislation that would authorize pharmacists to provide certain types of services and require health plans to reimburse pharmacists when the pharmacist provides a covered service that the pharmacist is legally authorized to provide.

The Ohio Association of Health Plans (OAHP) is the state's leading trade association representing the health insurance industry. OAHP's member plans provide health benefits to more than 9 million Ohioans through employer-sponsored coverage, the individual insurance market, and public programs such as Medicare, Medicaid and the Federal Insurance Marketplace. Our members offer a broad range of health insurance products to Ohioans in the commercial marketplace and are committed partners in public programs.

The purpose of OAHP's testimony is to make the Committee aware of two potential issues in SB 265, in the hopes of resolving both. Specifically:

- As currently drafted, the bill is a mandate (see lines 739-746); OAHP respectfully requests this language be revised to make clear the sponsor's intent that this bill is voluntary.
- As currently drafted, the bill's contracting requirements are unclear. OAHP respectfully requests that this language be streamlined for purposes of health care contracting law.

For months, OAHP has been engaged with the Ohio Pharmacists Association (OPA) to identify long-term financially sustainable business model solutions for Ohio's pharmacists. OAHP and the plans have been engaged with OPA to understand the independent pharmacists' concerns. Health care is constantly changing and determining the ways pharmacists and pharmacies can distinguish themselves in this market will be very important to long term sustainability.

We support this long-term goal and thus we ask SB 265 be revised to address the above raised issues.

We look forward to meeting with Senator Dolan this afternoon and continuing these conversations on SB 265.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 265.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Miranda C. Motter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Miranda C. Motter
President and CEO
Ohio Association of Health Plans