



April 30, 2019

Representative Derek Merrin, Chair
House Health Committee
77 S. High St., 13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Merrin,

On behalf of the Ohio Association of Health Plans (OAHP), thank you for the opportunity to offer written proponent testimony on House Bill 63, legislation that would eliminate “gag clauses” and “clawbacks”.

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.

Ohioans deserve to know price information and specifically information at the pharmacy counter regarding less expensive prescription drug options. Our industry has supported legislation that would eliminate “gag clauses” and clawbacks.”

We applaud the bill's sponsors for taking this step and encourage continued work to solve the fundamental problem of high drug prices for patients. Drug prices are out of control because there isn't real competition in the market or an open or honest view into how prices are set. OAHP encourages policymakers to support legislation that will increase competition among manufacturers and provide greater transparency into how drug manufacturers set their prices and what causes them to go up each year.

OAHP stands ready to work with policymakers to develop meaningful solutions that address the high cost of drugs.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 63.

Sincerely,

Miranda Creviston Motter

President and CEO
Ohio Association of Health Plans