November 19, 2019

Ohio House Health Committee

Proponent Testimony HB 214

Submitted by: Paula Jordan

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Chair Lipps, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member west, and Members of the Ohio House Health Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB214.

Both my husband and I are totally blind. Our children are grown and gone, so we have no sighted help in the home. Just recently I had an experience that made me realize how critically important this bill is. My husband is undergoing chemo therapy and has been having some memory issues. Because of those I have taken over managing his medications. Most of our meds come from a company that uses the free Scriptalk labels which allow us to read all information on the drug labels including the medication name, side effects, dosage, and prescribing physician along with other information. Prescriptions are mailed to us with the labels in place. We get a 90 day supply. This works well with medications we take regularly and will be on for some time. When we are given short term prescriptions such as an antibiotic they need to be filled at our local drugstore which does not provide accessible information.

A few months ago my husband ran out of one of his drugs which then had to be refilled through our local Walgreens store and had no accessible information on it. I assumed that this was his Crestor and filled his daily pill box using it. After about a month when it was close to running out I went to have it refilled and found out that I was doubling up on one medication, and not giving the Crestor at all. Fortunately, there were no serious side effects, but if I had been able to read the label from Walgreens, the whole issue would not have happened. I strongly encourage you to work toward the passage of this bill. I can’t emphasize enough how serious the situation could have been. Thank you for reading this and for your careful consideration. If you have any questions feel free to email me or call me at 1-513-921-3732.

Most sincerely,

Paula Jordan