



# OHIO PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION

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**Ernest Boyd, Executive Director  
Ohio House Health Committee  
Proponent Testimony on House Bill 135  
March 9, 2021**

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo and members of the House Health Committee, I am Ernest Boyd, Executive Director of the Ohio Pharmacists Association. I am pleased to speak in support of Representative Manchester and Representative West's House Bill 135. This legislation will protect your constituents, and our patients, from the insurance companies enforcing "accumulator adjustment programs". These programs increase patient cost by not allowing the patient to count all payments made by them directly, or on their behalf, toward their deductible and out of pocket maximums, unless they use a generic equivalent. This also stops "surprise billing" at the pharmacy counter. We believe that patients, already under great financial stress, need the protection that HB 135 provides.

The patient may get assistance from a drug manufacturer, a church, a family member, or a charity, and those sources are critical for the patient to get the medication. I have had pharmacists tell me how patients would not be able to get cancer medications, and other very expensive drugs without this assistance. If the patient's chronic condition is not treated, then they are hospitalized with a much higher cost.

The Ohio Pharmacists Association is pleased to join many professional and consumer groups in full support of this critical legislation. Thank you for the opportunity to speak, and I am happy to take any questions.