



HOUSE HEALTH COMMITTEE – Proponent Testimony, HB 193, April 13th, 2021.

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and members of the committee, thank you for holding this hearing and for the opportunity to provide testimony.

My name is Jeff Dillon, and I am the Ohio Legislative Director for Americans for Prosperity (AFP). As one of the largest grassroots organizations in the country, AFP is driving long-term solutions to some of the country's biggest problems. Our organization, and its thousands of activists across Ohio, are dedicated to breaking barriers that stand in the way of people realizing their full potential. Removing or reducing these barriers, in whatever forms they take, helps move our society toward one of mutual benefit, where people succeed by helping others improve their lives and by transforming their communities. Accordingly, I am here to express support for House Bill 193.

HB 193 is a straightforward piece of legislation, which would require that Schedule II controlled substances be prescribed electronically, as opposed to on paper prescription pads, except in emergency situations. As the bill sponsors ably articulated during their sponsor testimony, their legislative intent is to cut down on fraudulent acquisition of highly addictive substances, thus cutting off one prong of the supply of illicit drugs that continue to ravage communities around Ohio.

From AFP's viewpoint, addiction is one of the foremost barriers we face collectively as a society. People who have the misfortune of becoming trapped in a cycle of addiction put themselves at risk and too often spiral downward, losing employment opportunities, supportive social stability, and too often, their lives. HB 193 is a commonsense solution to combatting Ohio's addiction crisis. The bill will by no means stop people from acquiring illegal drugs from several other avenues, but it is a well-intended step to start to make a dent in the problem, and it will not be overly burdensome for healthcare providers to comply with this change to the law. As the sponsors mentioned, this is already common practice in roughly half the states.

As some of you on the committee will know, AFP's main advocacy efforts here in the Ohio General Assembly over the past couple years have mostly focused on criminal justice reform issues. Though it is a small to change to the law and related to healthcare delivery, I view HB 193 to be complimentary to my organization's efforts to reform Ohio's justice system. In both cases, the motivation is to empower people to be able to live as free from constraint as possible, striving ever closer to their full potential. The legal and physical consequences of addiction can derail even the most resolute individuals' lives, and HB 193 is a commendable attempt to get closer to solving one aspect of the problem that faces our state and its people.

AFP thanks Reps. Cutrona and Pavliga for their sponsorship of HB 193. Thank you again, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to offer testimony today. I'm happy to do my best to answer any questions the committee might have.

Americans for Prosperity (AFP) exists to recruit, educate, and mobilize citizens in support of the policies and goals of a free society at the local, state, and federal level, helping every American live their dream – especially the least fortunate. AFP has more than 3.2 million activists across the nation, a local infrastructure that includes 36 state chapters, and has received financial support from more than 100,000 Americans in all 50 states. For more information, visit www.AmericansForProsperity.org.