



Chairman Lipps, Vice Chairman Holmes, Ranking Member Russo and all members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on House Bill 193 on behalf of the Ohio Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (Ohio ACEP) that represents over 1,600 emergency physicians across the State.

Our association supports the spirit of House Bill 193. We whole heartedly agree that Ohio is still battling a deadly opioid crisis and we see the effects of the devastation daily in the emergency department. We agree that electronic prescriptions are preferred when possible to avoid any potential fraud with a paper prescription.

Ohio laws and rules require a check of OARRS before prescribing an opioid and we are also limited to issuing a small supply of opioids out of the emergency department. We believe our members have done meaningful work to be cognizant of and limit opioid prescribing from the emergency department. We work in hospitals that have integrated health records and in most cases are able to prescribe using the electronic systems. However, there are circumstances when this may not be possible or create additional burdens for our patients.

We are asking this committee to consider some limited exemptions to providing a prescription electronically. As you have heard from other groups, these exemptions are in line with what is provided in other states and what will be included in a federal law that goes into effect next year.

In the emergency department there are unique instances when a written prescription may be necessary. For instance: if our electronic system is down, if the patient is traveling from another area and does not have access to their normal pharmacy, if the patient is visiting during non-business hours and their regular pharmacy is not open, or if the patient is being discharged to a group home, nursing home or other facility that does not use a traditional pharmacy. It is imperative for patient care that they are still able to access their prescribed pain medication in these instances.

We thank the bill sponsors and this committee for considering this perspective and we look forward to working on this issue as the process continues. Ohio ACEP thanks this body for their continued commitment to addressing Ohio's drug epidemic and please know we want to be partners to having a healthy population.

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