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Interested Party Testimony
House Bill 193
Ohio House Health Committee
April 26, 2021

Chairman Lipps, Vice-Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo and members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide interested party testimony on HB 193 on behalf of the Ohio Hospital Association. HB 193 would limit pharmacist dispensing of schedule II controlled substances to those prescribed electronically, rather than in writing or electronically as under current law.

Established in 1915, OHA is the nation's first state-level hospital association. OHA exists to collaborate with member hospitals and health systems to ensure a healthy Ohio. OHA currently represents 240 hospitals and 14 health systems throughout Ohio. The association is governed by a 20-member Board of Trustees with representation from small and large hospitals, teaching facilities and health care systems with a committee and task force structure.

Our association understands the goals of the proposed requirement and the benefits that e-prescribing provides in terms of security and data advantages. However, we believe including some limited exemptions would be a reasonable accommodation to ensure that patient care isn't interrupted, such as in situations where there is temporary technical, electrical, or broadband failure or in certain emergency scenarios.

We are asking this committee to consider a few exceptions 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.

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.