



Ohio House of Representatives
Health Committee

March 04, 2022

Chair Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on H.B. 558. My name is George Wang and I am a co-founder of SIRUM.

SIRUM is a national nonprofit that helps implement state-based programs around the country to donate unused medications to patients in need. Donated medication is often the safety-net's last line of defense for vulnerable patients and at the same time billions of dollars of unexpired medicine is destroyed each year in the US. We help operate and provide assistance to donation programs, helping tens of thousands of patients access millions of dollars of donated medication that they would not otherwise have been able to afford. We have also provided consultation on over 15 drug donation bills and regulations around the country.

We believe H.B. 558, if passed, will greatly expand the reach of Ohio's prescription drug donation program with respect to both the amount of prescription drugs eligible for donation and the number of patients served. Moreover, H.B. 558 will further aid in reducing health care costs and needless waste for Ohio and its residents.

Specifically, allowing for those drugs not in their original sealed and tamper-evident packaging to be accepted and distributed by charitable pharmacies and nonprofit clinics will increase available medicine to a greater number of eligible patients. We believe safety will not be compromised by allowing these entities to accept such prescription drugs. Charitable pharmacies, including those operating in Ohio, employ pharmacists who are required by statute to inspect all drugs prior to distributing them to determine their safety. Importantly, throughout our 10+ years of operations and communication with all the significant programs around the county, we are unaware of any patient safety concerns based on donated drugs, including donation programs that have medications donated by end users.

Chair Lipps and members of the committee, thank you again for the opportunity to submit this testimony. I would welcome any questions you might have.

Sincerely,





SIRUM

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SIRUM | Saving Medicine. Saving Lives.
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