



OHIO PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION

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**Testimony of Ernest Boyd**

**Senate Health Committee**

**Proponent Testimony on Substitute House Bill 37**

**September 15, 2021**

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Senate Health Committee, I am Ernest Boyd, Executive Director of the Ohio Pharmacists Association.

We strongly support the passage of Substitute House Bill 37. This legislation will protect the public in a significant way. Occasionally, due to various issues, a pharmacist cannot immediately reach a prescriber for a refill on a lifesaving medication. Insulin for diabetes, various drugs for heart conditions, and a variety of drugs used to control chronic conditions must be continued without interruption.

This legislation increases the frequency that a pharmacist may dispense certain drugs on an emergency basis from one to three times in a 12-month period. The legislation also requires a health plan to cover the dispensing, if the plan already covers the drug, and must charge a copay no higher than normal.

Why is this needed? Sometimes people travel, and an inhaler or other medication may run out unexpectedly. A flood, tornado or other event can disrupt a patient's normal dispensing. Homeless people may have a medication destroyed by heat or freezing. This legislation will allow pharmacists to use their professional judgement to keep the patient healthy. Occasionally, a patient simply loses or misplaces medication but still needs the short supply.

Although emergency dispensing is relatively rare, it is critical that patients who need these drugs to live have reasonable access. We appreciate your support of this important legislation. I am happy to answer any questions.