



OHIO PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION

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Testimony of Ernest Boyd

Senate Health Committee

Proponent Testimony on Substitute House Bill 193

January 26, 2022

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.

The OPA is pleased to support HB 193, which will significantly reduce the problem of forged prescriptions. The primary drugs that have been the object of forged prescriptions have been Schedule II medications, which includes the strongest narcotics. The forgers have been amazingly good at creating illegitimate prescriptions. This legislation will require that Schedule II drugs shall be prescribed using electronic means, with a few reasonable exceptions.

It is far more difficult for prescriptions to be created illegitimately using electronic transmission. This strategy has been utilized in many other states with approximately half of the states already passing similar legislation. There is also a federal requirement for mandatory e-prescribing of schedule II-IV drugs in the Medicare program. So, this is not a new concept, and we believe it will be effective in Ohio to further reduce the availability of unprescribed narcotics and other abused drugs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I'll be happy to answer any questions.