



OHIO PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION

2674 Federated Blvd., Columbus, OH 43235 • Phone: (614) 389-3236 • Fax: (614) 389-4582

Testimony of Ernest Boyd
Senate Health Committee
Proponent Testimony on Substitute House Bill 37
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 Ohio Pharmacists Association strongly supports House Bill 37. I had a personal experience where my physician went on Christmas break a bit early, and my pharmacy was unable to get a refill authorization for a chronic medication for 2 weeks. Due to the wording the assistant used in not renewing the Rx, the pharmacist was not comfortable with giving the emergency refill. Luckily, it is not a life-saving drug, so I just skipped it. But it did give me a greater appreciation for this law – especially if I had been on insulin or another critical medication.

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.

There are many reasons a patient may need this flexibility. 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.