



January 25, 2022

Ohio Legislature
Health Committee
Chairman Stephen A. Huffman

RE: HB193 – electronic prescriptions (veterinarian exemption)

Chairman Huffman and Committee Members,

Animal Policy Group works with clients in the veterinary and animal pharmaceutical professions, representing over 65,000 veterinary professionals, nationally. We ask the committee to amend HB193 to include an exemption for veterinarians.

Roughly thirty states have adopted mandatory electronic prescriptions for controlled substances in response to the federal mandate for Medicare, and it is likely all states will adopt such measure over the next couple years. To date, every state has exempted veterinarians due to a lack of compatibility between veterinary electronic medical records and e-prescribing programs. Simply put, the technology is not there yet on the veterinary side to allowing them to comply. There are practical complications, as well, for example, veterinarians having to issue prescriptions at farms for livestock.

It appears the language in HB193 would include veterinarians, and the exemption for prescribers who issue fewer than 50 schedule II prescriptions would exclude a lot of veterinarians, but not all.

There has been a lot of push-back in other states from pharmacies that are not aware of veterinarian exemptions. We recommend a clear, direct exemption for all veterinarians, to avoid any confusion by pharmacies.

We thank you for your time on this issue and please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

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