



To: Members of the Ohio House Health Provider Services Committee

Fr: Monica Hueckel, VP, Advocacy, Ohio State Medical Association

Da: April 25, 2023

Re: HB 73

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On behalf of the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA), the state's oldest and largest professional organization representing Ohio physicians, medical residents, and medical students, we are thankful for the opportunity to comment on House Bill 73 today.

HB 73 would authorize prescribers to prescribe an off-label drug with patient's informed consent, and generally require a pharmacist to dispense the drug, including when a patient has not been tested or screened for or exposed to a particular disease, illness, or infection. OSMA is a long-time advocate for the physician's ability to exercise their professional, clinical judgment (including consideration of potential risks on a case-by-case basis) in the assessment and management of the medical needs of their patients. In our continued advocacy for the medical profession and the patients served by our members, we stress that this is a critical facet of health care delivery and the physician-patient relationship.

OSMA also has longstanding policy supporting that FDA-approved drugs prescribed off-label are reimbursed by third-party payers. We highly encourage the sponsors of this legislation to consider adding a provision that would require this coverage in order to make more positive impact for Ohio patients.

Thank you for your consideration of our remarks. As always, we appreciate the opportunity to be meaningful contributors to the legislative process. Please contact us should you have any questions.