

**Ohio General Assembly**

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Adam Holmes

State Representative, District 97

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Bill 136 Sponsor Testimony

Thank you Chairman Cutrona, Vice-Chair Gross, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the House Health Provider Services Committee for hearing HB 136, regarding the operation of remote dispensing pharmacies using a telepharmacy system. Telepharmacy is a system that monitors the dispensing of drugs and provides drug-related utilization review and patient counseling services via electronic methods. Last General Assembly, Representative Frazier and I joint sponsored HB 122 to expand telehealth access in Ohio. We intentionally left pharmacists and remote dispensing pharmacies out of that legislation in order to address it in the standalone legislation before you today. This legislation was approved by the House last year, but did not exit the Senate.

This legislation was written with the cooperation of the Ohio Pharmacy Board in order to expand and modernize pharmaceutical access across the state in both rural and underserved populations. HB 136 will maintain current oversight standards for pharmaceutical supervision; while enabling remote capability with rule-making authority in accordance with the Ohio Pharmacy Board.

This bill will set a framework to ensure patient protection while placing controls to limit abuse such as the restriction limit of 150 scripts per day on a ninety-day average, appropriate reporting, satisfying a sixty-day data retention requirement, two technicians required in the remote dispensing pharmacy at a time, and specified compliance requirements.

27 other states have adopted similar measures to ensure pharmaceutical access for those traditionally left behind. HB 136 will help remove geographical barriers and allow Ohioans in all 88 counties access to treatment via telecommunication, and reduce the cost of health care. Thank you Chairman Cutrona, Vice-Chair Gross, Ranking Member Somani, and members of House Health Provider Services Committee. I will be happy to answer any questions.