



State Representative Brian Stewart

Sponsor Testimony House Bill 136

June 6th, 2023

Chairman Cutrona, Vice-Chair Gross, Ranking Member Somani, thank-you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony in favor of House Bill 136, which will authorize the operation of remote dispensing pharmacies and will require the State Board of Pharmacy to regulate them.

Effective from March 23, 2022, Ohio law grants specific healthcare professionals, including pharmacists, the authority to provide telehealth services. This enables them to deliver healthcare services remotely using information and communication technology, regardless of their physical location in relation to the patient. However, the existing regulations fail to encompass pharmacists within this framework. The introduction of HB 136 seeks to rectify this situation.

During the previous general assembly, I represented various rural areas of Ohio, such as Morgan County. In these regions, residents often face significant challenges when it comes to accessing prescription medication, often having to travel for 40 minutes or more one way. By passing HB 136, we can eliminate these obstacles and ensure that even the most remote areas of Ohio have convenient access to pharmacy services. This not only saves time and money for the state but also benefits the residents of Ohio.

HB 136 represents a significant step towards modernizing our healthcare systems, establishing a benchmark for tele pharmacy practices across the entire region. We sincerely appreciate your consideration of House Bill 136 and are available to address any inquiries you may have.