

6/10/2023

“Written SUPPORT testimony for SubHB 73”

Dear Chairman Cutrona, Vice Chair Gross, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the Health Provider Services Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide supporting testimony for HB 73; the Dave and Angie Patient and Health Provider Protection Act.

The Dave and Angie Patient and Health Provider Protection Act (HB 73) reestablishes a healthcare provider’s autonomy to practice the art of medicine. The physician or other licensed prescribers have always been permitted to prescribe FDA approved off-label medications if there was good scientific evidence to suggest the medication could be efficacious in a given patient’s disease. During the Covid pandemic, this autonomy was infringed upon. HB 73 protects the healthcare provider’s discretion to prescribe on/off label medications, protects the pharmacist ability to fill the prescription and most importantly protects the patient from being denied their routine medications while hospitalized.

This bill contains language providing much needed provisions prohibiting disciplinary action against any licensed provider for expressing a medical opinion that opposes the group think of the licensing board, local health department or the state department of health. In addition, this bill provides important protections against the federal government intervention into the physician-patient relationship in regards to off-label drug prescribing.

Importantly, HB 73 contains thoughtful language to accommodate pharmacists, hospitals and other inpatient healthcare modalities. The bill provides ample liability protection to these entities while allowing the provider the autonomy to provide the best care for their patient. Finally, the bill does not give liability protection to the prescriber. This will limit the indiscriminate use of medications without sound evidence to support an off-label application.

In conclusion, I support HB 73. I request the committee members to “Please Vote Yes on SubHB73”.

Sincerely,

*Joseph J. Sreenan, MD*

Director of Graduate Medical Education