



**Ohio Advocates for Medical Freedom**

*Advocating for Medical Freedom since 2015*

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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 clarifications and improvements made in Sub HB 73 grant freedom to prescribers to direct the care of their patients while also providing generous liability protections to pharmacists, hospitals and inpatient facilities that disagree with the prescribers' choices for the off-label drug's use. This bill provides a medical freedom pathway for all parties involved. We understand that the Hospital Association disagrees with being included in this legislation but because the majority of doctors are employed by hospital systems it is impossible to maintain the intent of The Dave & Angie Patient & Health Provider Protection Act if they are exempted.

A 2022 study by the Physicians Advocacy Institute indicated that nearly 74% of all physicians in the United States are employed by hospitals, health systems or corporate entities and that a 38% increase in hospital or corporate-owned practices resulted during the pandemic.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the ratio of Covid-19 deaths to Covid-19 hospitalizations nationwide was **\*\*18.3%\*\***.

In Ohio the ratio of Covid-19 deaths to Covid-19 hospital admissions for Covid-19 was **\*\*30%\*\***.

In 2020, Ohio was ranked 29th for Covid-19 Mortality by State (2) In 2021, Ohio was ranked 35th for Covid-19 Mortality by State

Ohio performed on average, worse than the National Average in regard to fighting Covid-19.

Under the New Covid-19 Treatments Add-On Payment (NCTAP), hospitals were given an additional 20% for an individual hospitalized for Covid-19 If the hospital adhered to a suggested treatment protocol. If a hospital administered an off-label medication, said Hospital would not receive the additional 20% reimbursement.

It is arguable that the Hospital Treatment of Covid-19 in Ohio was more about focusing on protocols and profits than it was on patient health outcomes. After witnessing the last three years, can we with good conscience continue to allow hospitals to have total control over dictating what treatments are allowed to be prescribed in future infectious disease outbreak? Isn't it time to restore the Doctor-patient relationship again and let Doctors treat their patients?

We believe Sub HB 73 is the answer.

For years Hospital and health facility front line workers have had hospitals and Pharmacy boards dictate what would be accepted “protocols” for the patients under their care. Most of the protocols for the last three years were based on federal financial incentives and bonuses provided in the “Cares Act” of 2020. It is time to allow to Ohio prescribers to put their patient’s health outcomes BEFORE profits. It is time for in-house doctors, nurse practitioners, and pharmacists

who have had their hands tied by hospital administrators and committees and pharmacy boards to finally have the medical freedom they need to prescribe and fill off-label drugs for their patients!

HB 73 Will finally bring medicine back to its roots, by allowing health providers the ability to prescribe for their patients, any FDA approved and legal, off-label drug they feel will provide the best health outcome for their patient. It is time for the legislature to restore Ohio’s faith in medicine. We implore the committee and house members to Vote YES on Sub HB 73.

Stephanie Stock, LPTA OAMF President [www.OhioAMF.org](http://www.OhioAMF.org)

Sources:

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