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Chairman Swearingen, Vice Chair Gross, Ranking Member Somani and members of the House Health Provider Services Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 275.

In my opinion, our present Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS) is one of the most sophisticated and advanced systems of its kind in the United States. Since its implementation, OARRS has been vital in reducing pill mills and doctor shopping throughout Ohio. The system itself is extremely efficient and accessible for doctors and pharmacies to use. This legislation is in response to a current gap in the OARRS system.

HB 275 has four main elements:

1. This bill will eliminate the existing seven-day exemption for requiring an OARRS check, an existing shortfall in the system. Currently, if a prescription is issued for less than a seven-day supply, prescribers are not required to check OARRS, which allows for patients to shop around for smaller amounts of opioids. In this legislation we seek to remove the seven-day exemption to strengthen the OARRS system and improve upon the work that has already been done.

2. This legislation requires a pharmacist who dispenses an opioid in an amount indicated for a period of five or more days to discuss with the patient or the patient's representative the risks of opioid addiction, including that the risk of addiction increases substantially after taking such a drug for five or more days.
3. House Bill 275 requires that a warning label must be attached on the container for all opioids dispensed. This label describes the risk of addiction and overdose that opioids carry.
4. Finally, the Director of Commerce and the Executive Director of the Board of Pharmacy shall consult with the Director of Budget and Management to determine the amount of money sufficient for maintaining and administering drug database operations and initiatives aimed at reducing the diversion of dangerous drugs. This transfer provides sustained funding for OARRS enforcement activities that can help improve overall operations and removes the concern of a lapse in funding for these vital activities.

Ultimately, the goal of this legislation is to strengthen the current OARRS system and help fight against the opioid epidemic. We believe that these changes to current law will enhance what we are currently doing and save lives. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important piece of legislation and we would be happy to answer any questions you may have.