

Ohio Chapter

INCORPORATED IN OHIO

American Academy of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

December 5th, 2023

The Honorable Brian Lampton
Chairman, Insurance Committee
Ohio House of REpresentatives
Ohio Statehouse
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Lampton and Members of the House Insurance Committee—

On behalf of the nearly 3,000 members of the Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (OhioAAP), I am writing today to express our support for House Bill 291, legislation that would protect patient access to prescription drugs. I want to commend the bill sponsors, Representatives Carruthers and Lison, for their commitment to this issue, and I want to thank this committee for their attention to the bill.

HB 291 would prohibit 'non-medical' switching of prescription drug coverage during a health plan year. These actions can include increasing cost-sharing requirements for patients, removing drugs from plan formularies, or changing prior authorization requirements. HB 291 would still allow these changes to be made prior to the start of a new plan year. Patients with complex health conditions often select plans that provide coverage and access to specific drugs. Changing drug coverage in the middle of a plan year is unfair to patients and could impact their access to life-sustaining medication.

As the leading voice for child health and wellness, our members are particularly concerned with how non-medical switching impacts children with rare diseases or significant health issues, such as cancer. Changes in prescription drug access can have an adverse impact on these children and their families. HB 291 strikes a fair balance between the needs of parents and children and the realities health plans face in crafting benefits and coverage. Simply put, if a patient or their family begins a plan year with drugs covered at a certain level then they should be protected from arbitrary changes to that coverage during the plan year.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Wervev Arnold".

Melissa Wervev Arnold
Chief Executive Officer
Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Ohio Chapter

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