



*By electronic submission*

May 7, 2024

Honorable Stephen Huffman  
Chair

Ohio Senate Health Committee

Dear Chairman, Huffman, Vice Chairman Johnson and Distinguished Members of the Senate Health Committee:

*Re: To amend section 4729.285 and to enact section 4729.554 of the Revised Code to authorize the operation of remote dispensing pharmacies.*

Chairman Huffman & Senate Health Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 95. The Independent Pharmacy Cooperative (IPC) represents the interests of pharmacist owners, managers, and employees of more than thirty-five independent community pharmacies located across the State of Ohio. Our members are community based, small business owners who are among America's most accessible health care providers, often serving as the only pharmacy or health professional in rural and urban medically underserved areas. IPC believes all patients should have access to pharmacy services. If a geographical location in the state is determined to not have sufficient access, then telepharmacy can play an important role in serving those patients. However, there also needs to be protections from the unintended consequence of putting existing community pharmacies out of business that serve as the primary source of healthcare in their local communities.

IPC believes that, if adopted, the changes to SB 95 in amendment 8 is crucial and would strike the right balance between protecting existing brick and mortar pharmacies and ensuring important access options for Ohio patients.

Importantly, none of the regulations should hinder non-dispensing activities such as cognitive services, including a pharmacist providing remote education and counseling to patients located anywhere in the state.

[www.ipcrx.com](http://www.ipcrx.com)

## Conclusion

Independent Pharmacy Cooperative greatly appreciates the opportunity to comment on this important legislation and with the adoption of substitute bill 0594-8 we support the passage of SB 95.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to contact me by either email ([mark.kinney@ipcrx.com](mailto:mark.kinney@ipcrx.com)) or by phone (608-628-7311).

Respectfully submitted,

*Mark Kinney*

Mark Kinney, R.Ph.  
Executive Vice President of Government Relations  
Independent Pharmacy Cooperative