

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, and members of the Senate Health Committee,  
Thank you for reading my letter of support for HB 73, the Dave and Angie Patient and Health  
Provide Protection Act.

I was surprised to see that there would be any opposition to this no nonsense bill. I then read the Ohio Pharmacist Associations rationale for opposing this bill. One of the big concerns is that it removes a pharmacist's professional judgement when dispensing a medication.

I retired as an RN in 2023 after 39 years of service. I did not *dispense* medications ordered by a physician, I actually *administered* them. Often I would have to contact a physician and/or pharmacist to clarify the correct dose, route, etc. of a medication to be given. If the pharmacist has questions or concerns they should contact the patient's physician and do the same.

This same organization expressed concerns over controlled substances. I worked in the acute care hospital setting when pain became 'the 5th vital sign'. Controlled substances were administered freely. I took care of patients that would then go down 8 floors and walk to the library across the street to smoke cigarettes, return and demand nurses give them IV pain medication. To even suggest that perhaps all this medication was not necessary would put the nurse in danger of losing their job because 'pain was what the patient said it was'. It is very ironic that this is now a concern of the OPA--the same organization that convinced us that these medications were not addicting.

The OPA also expressed concern that this bill 'would exhaust supplies of those in need of medications', referring to ivermectin. A pharmacist determining what customer needs a drug more than another customer sounds like a gross overreach of their professional role.

I urge the committee to vote YES on HB 73.

Sincerely,  
Linda Gemmell