

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

Thank you for hearing my support testimony for HB 73, The Dave & Angie Patient and Health Provider Protection Act.

Pharmacy Denies Filling Dr Prescription

In August 2021, my husband was denied a doctor prescribed off-label use of an approved FDA drug from a local Walgreens pharmacy. Multiple conversations with the pharmacist who continued to deny filling this prescription were supported with reasons that were completely invalid (two examples: the pharmacist first rudely argued there was no way my husband could have gotten back from Florida so quickly after seeing the Florida physician who wrote the prescription – he explained it was a telemedicine visit, which then led to the pharmacist invalidating telemedicine to which my husband rebutted he had a Cleveland Clinic telemedicine appointment earlier that summer that resulted in a script they had no issue filling; the pharmacist then got into the off-label, not approved issue which we supported with information to them how this was invalid). The pharmacist never asked if my husband had any allergies to this drug, any life-threatening contraindications to this drug – health related questions pharmacists should absolutely be asking vs “playing doctor” and determining what a patient should be prescribed which is illegal as they are not licensed to do so.

The prescribing doctor contacted the pharmacist, who also got nowhere with valid facts, and was treated as rudely as we were. We were advised by this doctor that Walgreens was never going to fill this script and that we needed to find another pharmacy. A local CVS pharmacist filled this script with no issue – we informed them upfront what it was for prior to script submittal to avoid another round of rejection – and insurance covered it!

This situation was extremely distressing on many levels, completely unnecessary, and wrong. Doctors prescribe off-label scripts all the time which have been routinely filled by pharmacists – a practice that existed long before 2021. As a patient, it was my husband’s right to receive what his doctor prescribed.

WHO’s Jurisdiction in Ohio

I am grateful HB 73 denies the World Health Organization having jurisdiction in our state. The WHO has not been elected into office by anyone in Ohio, nor in the US.

The IHR amendments and proposed treaty, when thoroughly examined, clearly show via the legal use of the word “shall” and other direct statements, the US will be required to enact laws that Ohioians will be subjected to – the end result: the WHO claims power over Ohioians.

HB 73 protects Ohio’s doctors care for their patients as they choose based on their expertise, experience, and knowledge. As a result, HB 73 consequently protects Ohio’s patients’ rights to choose and receive individualized care and treatment that best supports them uniquely vs being subjugated to universal courses of action applicable to all as dictated and mandated by the WHO and “legally” enacted in the US.

Anyone’s control over Ohioians’ medical decisions is not acceptable.

I urge the committee to vote YES on HB 73.

Susan M. Rolland, MS

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