

May 20, 2024

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, and Members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for hearing my support testimony for HB 73, The Dave and Angie Patient and Health Provider Protection Act.

I am an Internal Medicine physician in Ohio and had a very specific incidence during the Covid pandemic where a patient of mine was hospitalized with Covid and she asked the hospitalist multiple times to be given Ivermectin as part of her treatment plan. The hospitalist refused saying it wasn't part of their protocol and she ultimately ended up on a ventilator and passed away. As well, there were multiple patients who asked to be prescribed ivermectin and prescriptions were sent and the pharmacies refused to fill these prescriptions. Ultimately, the Ohio Board of pharmacy also sent a threatening letter regarding prescribing ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine. As you know, there are many drugs that are used and repurposed for diagnosis that are off label quite successfully and inexpensively. It is imperative that we as physicians can continue to prescribe medicine in this manner. I urge the committee to vote YES on HB 73!!

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Debra Fast D.O.