



OFFICE AND WAREHOUSE
211 Commerce Drive
Medina, Ohio 44256-1398
(330) 725-2340

AN EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP COMPANY
www.discount-drugmart.com
The Stores That Save YOU The Runaround!

June 6, 2024

The Honorable Stephen A. Huffman
Chair, Ohio Senate Health Committee
Statehouse
1 Capitol Square, 2nd Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: Discount Drug Mart Urges Opposition to HB 73

Chairman Huffman:

On behalf of Discount Drug Mart's 4,700 plus employees- including more than 250 pharmacists- operating 78 stores and pharmacies throughout Ohio- we write this letter to urge Ohio lawmakers to vote against HB 73. We believe HB 73 is problematic legislation that would prohibit pharmacists from refusing to fill prescriptions written for off-label uses- even when dispensing a medication could jeopardize patient safety. If enacted into law by Ohio lawmakers- this legislation would eliminate the standard of care for off-label prescriptions, negatively impact patient care, bypass a wealth of pharmacist medication expertise, and likely jeopardize pharmacist interest in practicing in Ohio.

HB 73 would require pharmacists to dispense any prescribed drug to a patient- and in doing so- would interfere with pharmacists' obligation to exercise his or her professional judgement as to the safety of the prescribed drug for that person. Put simply- this legislation would harm patients by requiring pharmacists to fill prescriptions even if the patient would have a harmful or life-threatening drug interaction. Especially because prescribers rarely provide the patient diagnosis when issuing a prescription- this proposal could impact the dispensing of most medications- as a pharmacist would never be sure when a prescription is being issued for off-label use.

Professional judgement is a cornerstone of pharmacy practice and a crucial aspect of a pharmacist's prescription dispensing approach. Professional judgement involves using accumulated knowledge and experience to make informed decisions and involves considering patient interests, legal obligations, professional standards, public interest, contractual terms, company procedures,

and other relevant factors related to the situation at hand. HB 73 eliminates the opportunity and duty of pharmacists to exercise expert understanding in the prescription dispensing decision. This will compromise the integrity of pharmacist's oversight and erode trust within the relationship between a patient and their pharmacist.

We would urge you and the Members of the Senate Health Committee to oppose HB 73 as this legislation will be harmful to patients.

Respectfully,



Don Boodjeh
Chief Executive Officer



John Gans
President



Steve Ferris
Government Affairs Director

Discount Drug Mart is an employee owned company employing more than 4,700 Ohioans- including more than 250 pharmacists. Discount Drug Mart operates 78 stores and pharmacies in 33 counties throughout Ohio. Founded by a pharmacist in 1969- our pharmacists fill over 7,000,000 prescriptions yearly- and help patients use medicines correctly and safely- while offering innovative services that improve patient health and healthcare affordability. Please visit Discount-DrugMart.com.