

Testimony of Dr. Pamela Heaton
The Council of Ohio Colleges of Pharmacy
Ohio Senate Health Committee

Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Health Committee, my name is Pamela C. Heaton, PhD, and I currently serve as the Dean and Professor of the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at The University of Toledo. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill 73 on behalf of The Council of Ohio Colleges of Pharmacy (COCP). The COCP stands in strong opposition to HB73, which will potentially place the safety of Ohio citizens at risk by undermining the role of the pharmacist.

The COCP represents the seven Ohio colleges and schools of pharmacy, including Cedarville University School of Pharmacy, Ohio Northern University Raabe College of Pharmacy, Northeast Ohio Medical University College of Pharmacy, The Ohio State University College of Pharmacy, University of Toledo College of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Cincinnati James L. Winkle College of Pharmacy, and University of Findlay College of Pharmacy. Collectively we graduate over 600 pharmacists per year that go on to provide patient care across the healthcare continuum.

Pharmacists play a key role in our healthcare system, ensuring the safe and effective use of medications for patients. Their dedication and expertise are critical in safeguarding public health. Pharmacists are knowledgeable and experienced in all matters concerning the safe use of medications. Their involvement goes beyond merely filling prescriptions; for each prescription they dispense, they meticulously review patients' medical histories, allergies and potential drug interactions. Requiring a pharmacist to fill a prescription removes their professional judgement which would compromise the vital role of pharmacists. By removing the professional judgement of the pharmacist, the bill risks endangering the health and wellbeing of our community members. Moreover, the legislation inserts the state in the practice of pharmacy, which is already effectively governed by the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy. The existing framework, overseen by the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy, already ensures the regulation and supervision necessary to maintain high standards of patient safety and quality of care. The proposed changes brought forth by HB73 undermines this system, introducing unnecessary complexities and uncertainties into an otherwise well-functioning healthcare system.

We urge you to take into consideration the potential repercussions of HB73 on the safe and effective use of medication in our state and vote against this legislation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to offer testimony. If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me at pam.heaton@utoledo.edu or 513-708-4851.

Sincerely,



Pamela C. Heaton, PhD
Dean and Professor
College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
University of Toledo

Co-signing Deans of the COCP

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Dean, Cedarville University School of Pharmacy

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