

Good morning. Thank you for letting me speak today. My name is Robert A. Zielke. I graduated from The Ohio State University College of Pharmacy in 2000. I've been a retail pharmacist for 24 years. I am humbled and privileged to serve the patients of the great state of Ohio. I truly love helping my patients by filling their prescriptions accurately after analyzing drug interactions and reviewing drug allergies. Counseling is one of the best ways to get to know the patient and learn about their quality of life as I try, in cooperation with other health professionals, to maximize quality care for the patient. Healthcare is a collaborative effort encompassing a variety of health care professionals working collectively as a team to best serve the patient to support their health, wellbeing and quality of life. It is a privilege working with doctors, nurse practitioners, dentists, optometrists, physicians assistants, veterinarians and other health care professionals.

With all due respect to these prescribers, healthcare is collaborative, not a hierarchy. It's not like the military where orders come from the doctors above and pharmacists have to obey. We are all moving parts in the healthcare process, where we provide checks and balances. A simple verification of the dose and directions of a prescription or questioning the treatment based on the indication of the drug is beneficial, not detrimental to the patient. Physicians are highly educated and skilled in the area of diagnosis. When it comes to medication therapy, pharmacists have multiple classes in pharmacology, as well as pharmacokinetics and pharmaceutics. Pharmacists have more experience understanding how the drugs work. Bringing together all of our specialized strengths gives the patient a better treatment outcome. Taking the pharmacist's expertise out of the equation is detrimental to the patient. While House Bill 73

sounds like it is extending a right to patients, it is actually exposing them to significant risk by dismantling the safety functions around them.

Example: Medroxy Progesterone 150 mg/mL intra-muscular injection

We as pharmacists are in the business of filling prescriptions. In the cases when we do stop and question a prescription, it is not a power trip. It is using our expertise for the safety and care of our patient. I'd ask you to consider for yourself, your loved ones, wouldn't you want to know that there is a safety valve, so to speak, in place for your, for their protection and well-being?