

Dear Chairman Huffman, Vice Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Health Committee,

My name is Megan Kroh, and I am a post-doc academic fellow at The Ohio State University College of Pharmacy. I am a licensed pharmacist who also practices clinical pharmacy at Nationwide Children's Hospital. I recently graduated from Purdue University College of Pharmacy and was drawn to the great state of Ohio for the incredible pharmacy opportunities here. I am very grateful for the mentors I have here and the opportunity to help provide healthcare and education to the Columbus and surrounding communities.

I am writing to share my opposition to House Bill 73, also known as the "Dave and Angie Patient and Health Provider Protection Act." As a clinical pharmacist at Nationwide Children's Hospital, I work in the community dispensing medications to patients, mostly pediatric patients. I am very concerned with the implications of HB73 should it be passed into law. I took the oath of the pharmacist not too long ago, and I hold myself to its high standards.

I promise to devote myself to a lifetime of service to others through the profession of pharmacy. In fulfilling this vow:

- *I will apply my knowledge, experience, and skills to the best of my ability to assure optimal outcomes for all patients.*
- *I will accept the responsibility to improve my professional knowledge, expertise, and self-awareness.*
- *I will hold myself and my colleagues to the highest principles of our profession's moral, ethical, and legal conduct.*
- *I will embrace and advocate changes that improve patient care.*

According to HB73, a medical provider would be able to prescribe any medication for any indication even if it does not have FDA approval for treating that disease or symptom (off-label use). HB73 states pharmacists must dispense, and a hospital or inpatient facility shall allow the dispensing of, and off-labeled drug to a patient if a prescriber has issued a prescription for the patient unless they have an ethical, moral, or religious belief that prevents them from dispensing the prescription, or the patient has a documented allergy/contraindication to the medication. This statute is very concerning to me as a clinical pharmacist whose responsibility it is to ensure appropriate use of medications for my patients. At times, this entails questioning providers about the medications or talking to and involving my patients in their own healthcare. Currently, I work closely with providers at Nationwide Children's Hospital to ensure we are providing the best patient care for our patients, and we have a strong collaborative mindset which leads to effective interprofessional teams and shared decision making.

This is just one of many stories I could share; last month, the pharmacy was sent a prescription for a patient in the emergency room. It was past 10 PM and family had been here at the emergency room all evening while having a 2.5-hour drive home. It was for a medication to help a child breathe better (theophylline) typically is given in a hospital setting. I reached out the provider and family to discuss this medication because it is given through a nebulizer machine,

and I wanted to ensure the family has the resources to be able to give this medication. The family had planned to use a neighbors nebulizer machine and came to the pharmacy to get the medication and instructions on how to give it. For many reasons specifically for sanitation, nebulizer machines should not be shared. I reached out to the provider to verify they wanted this patient to go home on this medication, shared the family did not have their own nebulizer, and offered alternative treatment options. We collaborated together and made sure the family received the appropriate medications for their child. While this story wasn't about an off-labeled use, I hope it truly conveys my job as a pharmacist to respectfully question my patient's medications to ensure they are getting the most appropriate treatment.

If HB73 would pass, I believe this would negatively impact the pharmacist and provider relationship and commitment together to provide all patients with the best, evidence-based care. I believe this bill puts patient safety in jeopardy. I am a valuable part of the healthcare team, and I believe pharmacists' knowledge and expertise ensures better patient care and outcomes. Community pharmacy isn't glamorous. It is about making a difference, being accessible healthcare resources to the community. I took the Oath of the Pharmacist and will advocate for change to improve patient care. I am in complete opposition to House Bill 73.

Thank you, Chairman Huffman, and members of the committee, for allowing me to submit written testimony in opposition to House Bill 73.

Most respectfully,

Megan Kroh, PharmD, RPh



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