

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

My name is Bella Blankenship, and I am a recently graduated pharmacist who moved to Ohio to pursue a post-graduate fellowship program at The Ohio State University College of Pharmacy. Through my role, I teach graduate and undergraduate students and practice pharmacy in transitions of care and community settings.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony and am writing to submit my formal opposition to House Bill 73. The bill's provisions represent some of the most severe restrictions against the practice of pharmacy of any state in the nation. I am concerned that, if passed, this legislation will negatively impact the number of students that 1) enroll in our state's higher education institutions to study pharmacy and 2) remain in the state to practice after graduation, thereby decreasing Ohio citizens' access to pharmacy services. As a new practitioner, the state of legislative and regulatory affairs with respect to the pharmacy profession was incredibly important to me when selecting Ohio to begin my career.

The practice of pharmacy is currently efficiently and adequately regulated by the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy. In addition, I am concerned that the passage of this bill would increase risks to patient safety and further elevate already high healthcare expenditures for our patients. This increase in healthcare spending may come from patients needing to seek additional care, such as hospitalizations and/or emergency department visits due to the increase in patient risk posed by this bill.

Thank you, Chairman Huffman, Vice Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Health Committee, for allowing me to submit written testimony in opposition to House Bill 73.

Most respectfully,



Bella Blankenship, PharmD, RPh