

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

My name is Anna Gehres, an Assistant Professor – Practice and a Patient Care Pharmacist. Additionally, I am an active voter and citizen. I have learned about HB 73 and have serious concerns with this bill.

As a pharmacist I am the last step in patient safety – it is literally my job to ensure patients receive safe and appropriate medications. It is what I have devoted over a decade of training to learn and the oath I took as a pharmacist. HB 73 undermines my role as a patient safety advocate and has far reaching implications to medications safety. I regularly work with teams of physicians, nurses, social workers, dieticians, and other support staff. HB 73 devalues my vital role on this team as the medication expert.

Lastly, as a faculty member at the top pharmacy school in Ohio, I pride myself in training students in environments in which their knowledge and skills are valued on the healthcare team. HB73 seeks to undermine this value and may negatively impact pharmacy practice in the State of Ohio in such a way that our state loses the some of the best pharmacy students to other states that do not have the restrictive practice laws that HB 73 purposes.

HB 73 will set us back in Ohio, specifically my patients.

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

Most respectfully,

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