

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide my personal opponent testimony on House Bill 73.

My name is Matthew Haldiman, and I am a hospital pharmacy manager in Columbus, Ohio. I am writing to express my concern that House Bill 73 will harm the Ohio patients whom I care for. My large community hospital provides care for thousands of patients annually, and the ability of the pharmacist to directly collaborate with the providers is paramount to the success of the treatment team. My goal is that my below concerns will assist with the removal of this bill.

**Concern:** *Off Label Prescribing already exists, this bill is not about allowing off-label dispensing, it is about "requiring" pharmacists to dispense any off-label prescription they receive.*

Off label prescribing does already occur, and it is important that informed clinical dialogue occurs each time. Discussing clinical trials is a necessary part to this process, and simply forcing a pharmacist to dispense a product places patient care and patient safety at risk. If an inappropriate medication is ordered, there would be no way to intervene and prevent that from reaching the patient.

**Concern:** *Emboldening dangerous prescribers, providing them with temporary privileges and turning Ohio patients into research guinea pigs.*

The use of unstudied/experimental medications poses a major risk to patient care. This could allow a provider to order any medication for any indication, potentially giving a patient a false sense of hope. This will also prevent other health care team members from clarifying or intervening with an appropriate regimen or recommendation.

**Concern:** *Splintering interdisciplinary care teams with outside prescribers and interfering with quality, inter-disciplinary care.*

This law will create a divide rather than foster a team environment when it comes to patient care. There is already a great deal of collaboration with patient care, and the physician, pharmacist, nurse, dietician, care management team/etc should all be involved.

**Concern:** *Contradiction between House Bill 73 and current pharmacy practice law.*

House Bill 73 will directly oppose existing pharmacy practice law which establishes the legal standard for pharmacy practice. For example, per OAC Rule 4729:5-5-15, pharmacists have a corresponding responsibility to ensure proper prescribing and must ensure that all prescriptions are issued for a legitimate medical purpose. Pharmacists are also required to perform a drug utilization review, where we clinically and scientifically review the patient and the prescription to ensure it is safe and effective. Through mandating that pharmacists dispense medications regardless of whether they have a scientific objection, House Bill 73 would require pharmacists to dispense medications including those without a legitimate medical purpose and prevent us from adequately addressing issues identified during our drug utilization review. This would force pharmacists to abandon their legal duties, in addition to abandoning principles of their professional oath, and will create significant irreconcilable legal conflict.

**Concern:** Medication ordering, shortages, and stewardship.

A hospital formulary/substitution system is vital for the success and structure of a hospital medication supply. This law would create a great deal of over supply, waste, and financial hardships. Allowing the hospital to determine the clinical need for a medication is the most appropriate route.

**Concern:** Patient supplied medications.

Patient medications are not always supplied appropriately. This bill fails to call that out. This bill would force a hospital to use a patient's home supply of medication, and it would create a risk if a home medication was not stored correctly or if the patient was no longer taking that medication anymore.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony in opposition to House Bill 73 and for your time considering the threat that it poses to Ohio patients. Please let me know if you have any questions.

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