

Written Testimony before Ohio Senate Health Committee Sub. House Bill 73

June 12, 2023

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Health Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in **opposition to Sub. House Bill 73**. My name is Arturo Polizzi, President & CEO at ProMedica – a mission-driven, not-for-profit health and well-being organization headquartered in Toledo, Ohio.

The scope of House Bill 73 eliminates the checks and balances of safe and effective medication use, including the professional judgment of the pharmacist and the patient's hospital care team.

Primarily, House Bill 73 negatively affects our health system because it:

1. Puts hospitalized patients at risk.

Patients in the hospital have complex care that is carefully managed and overseen by an internal physician and team of providers. We collaborate as a team of experts to provide family-centered care, tailored to the needs of each patient. Sub. House Bill 73 eliminates the checks and balances of safe and effective medication use within a hospital. ProMedica is concerned that if it is enacted, an external prescriber without the full picture of the patient's health status could override the hospital team's carefully developed plan, putting the patient at risk. By requiring hospital staff to administer a medication that the care team believes is not in the best interest of the patient, this bill puts patients at risk of harm.

2. Limits pharmacists' ability to perform their role in patient care.

Pharmacists can contact prescribers after reviewing a prescription to discuss potential adverse impact a particular drug may have on the patient that the prescriber may not have known. This prevents harm and reduces opportunity for medication errors. In the hospital setting, disputes between privileged prescribers and pharmacists are rare and are usually resolved professionally between clinicians in the best interest of the patient.

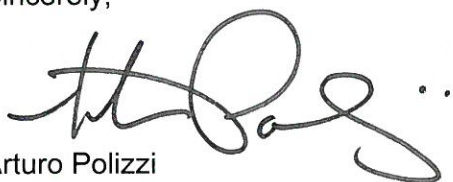
3. Conflicts with Existing Laws and Professional Practice Standards

Ohio law requires pharmacists to review prescribed drugs before dispensing to identify problems. Federal quality standards require hospitals to complete medication reconciliation at every transition of care in which new medications are ordered to avoid errors.

Pharmacists conduct prospective drug utilization reviews to identify the following: drug-allergy interactions; abuse and/or misuse; inappropriate duration of drug treatment; food-nutritional supplement-drug interactions' over-or under-utilization; therapeutic duplication; drug-disease state contraindications; drug-drug interactions; incorrect drug dose.

In sum, ProMedica's Ask: Vote NO on House Bill 73. Thank you for the time and consideration on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Arturo Polizzi
President & CEO