



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

My name is Victoria Williams, PharmD, BCCP, and I am a critical care pharmacist at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB73, the proposed legislation that seeks to impose restrictive measures on the accessibility of essential medications.

As a critical care pharmacist, I witness firsthand the critical importance of timely access to medications for patients in life-threatening situations. Any legislation that impedes this access not only undermines patient care but also endangers lives. HB73, by limiting access to certain medications, threatens the ability of healthcare professionals to provide the best possible care to their patients.

Furthermore, HB73 fails to address the root causes of medication misuse and abuse. Rather than implementing policies that promote education, prevention, and treatment, this bill takes a punitive approach that penalizes patients in need of these medications for legitimate medical reasons. It is crucial to differentiate between appropriate medical use and illicit misuse, and HB73 fails to do so effectively.

Additionally, HB73 imposes undue burdens on healthcare providers, including pharmacists, who are tasked with navigating the complexities of medication dispensation. The proposed restrictions create unnecessary hurdles and bureaucratic red tape, ultimately detracting from the time and resources that could be better allocated to patient care.

Moreover, the potential unintended consequences of HB73 cannot be overlooked. Restricting access to essential medications may inadvertently drive individuals towards riskier alternatives, such as illicit drugs, leading to further public health challenges and exacerbating the opioid epidemic that continues to plague our communities.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider HB73 and instead focus on evidence-based solutions that prioritize patient safety, access to essential medications, and public health. Collaborative efforts between healthcare providers, legislators, and stakeholders are essential to addressing the multifaceted issues surrounding medication use and abuse. Let us work together towards comprehensive solutions that promote responsible prescribing practices, enhance access to treatment for substance use disorders, and prioritize the well-being of all Ohioans.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this crucial matter.

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



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Most respectfully,

Victoria Williams



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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SUBMITTING TESTIMONY:

Please submit testimony **and** witness slip no later than 5pm on Monday, June 10th to

Brennan.Shanesy@ohiosenate.gov