

Dear State Senator Stephen H. Huffman,

I am writing this e-mail to the Senate Health Committee to provide my written testimony to HB73.

If passed, Ohio House Bill 73 as written would permit the administration of potentially dangerous medications which are prescribed outside of the standard of care by practitioners who are not involved in the day-to-day care of hospitalized patients. The Bill would allow for overriding hospitals' policies and procedures designed to provide the highest quality care and protect patients from unsafe practitioners. Hospital governance includes a Medical Executive Committee which oversees Pharmacy and Credential Committees. Before any medication is approved for use in the hospital setting, an extensive literature review is undertaken to see if the medication is both safe and effective. Credential committees take a great deal of time in obtaining extremely detailed information about a providers ability to administer quality and safe care prior to receiving privileges at their hospitals. To ask Pharmacy Committees and Credential Committees to do this outside the standard of care and in a rushed fashion, will only lead to devastatingly poor patient care and government sanctioned malpractice.

I have provided hospital-based care for over 30 years, and have treated patients with extremely poor prognoses and those who have not responded to treatment so understand the intent of the Bill. It's understandable that in bleak circumstances, patients and their families become desperate for improvement, if not a cure. It is understandable that they seek out a medication that they may have heard or read about even though there is no credible evidence that it is effective. It is incumbent upon those who treat severely ill hospitalized patients to be honest and forthright with patients and families about their condition, prognosis and evidenced based treatment options if any are left. Providers who offer untested and unwarranted medications are providing false hope versus appropriate clinical care with its difficult, though realistic discussions with patients and families. The former is a sham. The latter provides honest information for patients and families who will then be better able to face their suffering knowing the best medical facts available and make informed decisions which are best for them.

I am hopeful that you agree that Ohio House Bill 73 as written is dangerous to patients and disruptive to hospitals.

Respectfully,

Dallas Auvil, M.D.