

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 Abby Tyson and I am a Surgical Intensive Care Pharmacist at Riverside Methodist Hospital. I care for critically ill post-surgical and trauma patients in my practice in collaboration with a multi-disciplinary team. My job is to ensure the safety of their medication therapy based on their specific needs and the sequelae of their surgeries and/or injuries. I am writing to express my concern that House Bill 73 will harm the Ohio patients whom I care for.

Foremost, I have no opposition to off-label medication use, because clinically appropriate off-label prescribing already occurs with an extremely high frequency. I regularly engage in off-label medication use in my practice. House Bill 73 does not expand access to off label prescribing because it is already a widely utilized practice, what House Bill 73 does is remove patient protections by requiring pharmacists to dispense any prescription for an off-label use of a medication that we receive, even when it would harm our patient. House Bill 73 sponsors suggest that the bill preserves patient access to medications that might help them, but these medications are already available to them via off-label prescribing and dispensing, it instead removes protections that are keeping patients safe from irresponsible and inappropriate prescribing of off-label prescriptions. In preventing pharmacists from refusing to dispense medications on the grounds of scientific objection, House Bill 73 removes the last line of defense for patients and, in doing so, will undoubtedly lead to harm.

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.

The best way to provide care, especially for our most vulnerable patients, is through a coordinated interdisciplinary team effort. A coordinated team will ensure that all members are acting with up-to-date information, that all interactions between medications and disease states are known and thoughtfully considered, and that the best overall plan is established and implemented through a consensus of the most qualified individuals accessible in a patient's care. In permitting external providers to obtain temporary privileges, House Bill 73 fractures the care of our most fragile patients. Through allowing external individuals to assume complete and isolated control over an aspect of a patient's care, House Bill 73 puts Ohio patients at risk of communication errors which occur when a medical team is splintered. It will lead to errors due to the lack of clear communication, collaboration, and coordination which will occur when multiple exclusive parties are making medical decisions in the context of acute illness with moment-to-moment changes; it is times such as these when consistent information exchange is of the utmost importance. This privilege-related aspect of the bill has many extremely concerning implications, and adding an unnecessary layer of complexity to an already complicated process will lead to errors and

harm to Ohioans. 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.

Thank you,

Abby Tyson, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP

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