

I appreciate the opportunity to express my opinion regarding HB73. Thank you Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio and members of this committee. My name is Richard A. Vorraber, licensed pharmacist since 1980, working at Summa Health System - Akron City Hospital Campus for +43 years in the inpatient clinical & dispensing practice role.

My understanding of the origin of HB73 is the unfortunate death of its namesakes to Covid. I think we all can agree, Covid has been a divisive issue in our nation. Treatments and recommended precautions, even the reality of the disease is still debated in some circles. This bill strikes me as a way to appease those who oppose the scientifically promoted treatments and will do nothing to increase patient safety while opening avenues for future treatments that may present increased patient risk.

I must follow Ohio law OAC rule 4729:5-5-15 that mandates a pharmacist has a responsibility to ensure proper prescribing and prescriptions be used for legitimate medical purposes among other duties. By mandating that I cannot use any scientific judgment in my refusal (only moral, ethical, or religious belief or conviction that conflicts with the drug's dispensing or known life-threatening patient allergy or contraindication), that presents a legal conflict that needs to be resolved. Like it or not the system has built in checks and balances that all care providers need to take seriously for the benefit of the patient. Allowing treatments not generally recommended by practice guidelines does not seem to follow that duty.

Off label medication use is common and done so with generally accepted practice. This bill is not needed to ensure that part of therapy. This bill only opens the door to practice that is not scientifically sound or generally recommended by evidence based guidelines and knowledge.

We are all human and as such can be influenced by many factors in our lives. Beliefs that we hold due to those influences are strong, but not always in our best interest in the end. Lets not allow unapproved treatments and all that this bill would permit to become law. I feel for those who have lost family and friends, that may have lived if they had a different faith - a faith in the scientific, evidence based treatment available to them.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share my opinion.

Richard A. Vorraber RPh