

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide my personal opponent testimony on House Bill 73.

We are writing to you as motivated pharmacy students and interns currently serving patients as pharmacy student interns at Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and Nationwide Children's Hospital. We are writing to express our concerns that House Bill 73 will have a negative impact on the future pharmacy practice in the state of Ohio by affecting where students will want to work, pursue residency opportunities, and the attendance of our college in addition to raising significant safety concerns for the patients we serve as student interns.

As an out of state student from New York (Melissa), one aspect that motivated me to attend pharmacy school in Ohio was the more progressive legislation, collaborative practice opportunities, and reimbursement models compared to New York state. For example, the ability to be recognized as a provider in the state of Ohio under Ohio Medicaid is something that New York does not have. Provider status is a critical milestone for advancing the pharmacy profession because it directly impacts how pharmacists are integrated into the healthcare system and their ability to deliver care which is important to me in my education experience as an intern. House Bill 73, however, moves the profession in the opposite direction; it poses strict restrictions on pharmacy practice by removing a pharmacist's clinical judgement in safe and effective medication use. As the number four ranked pharmacy school in the country, Ohio State's College of Pharmacy attracts a substantial number of out of state students like me. I believe that if this legislation passes and restrictions are placed on pharmacists, future students will be less inclined to both attend Ohio State and seek future employment in residency and career opportunities in the state of Ohio.

Even as in-state Ohio students (Claire) at The Ohio State's College of Pharmacy, the passage of this legislation will prompt students to pursue residency opportunities and future careers in other states. This legislation will directly harm the scope of practice that we are able to practice with. House Bill 73 will make it so we must dispense medications we receive as prescriptions even if there are pertinent reasons against dispensing it. We have always heard of pharmacists being the part of the healthcare team that "proof-reads" for everyone else, but if HB73 passes I am left wondering how much room we will have to speak up if a prescription is potentially harmful to our patients.

Not only will this legislation affect the desire of students wanting to pursue future careers in Ohio, but this legislation also affects the safety of our patients. While off-label prescribing is a very common practice, House Bill 73 removes patient protections by requiring pharmacists to fill and dispense any prescription they might receive. It is morally challenging to be required to dispense a medication in instances when we know it would harm our patients. Pharmacists have a duty to ensure that the medications they are dispensing are safe to use, or that the benefits will outweigh the risks. If state law requires students and pharmacists to go against their knowledge of medications and dispense prescriptions that result to harm in

patients, it is safe to say that the state of Ohio will not be a destination for groundbreaking medical care as the precedent is that we put our patients in harm's way. It is important to note that medications for children and pregnant patients are often considered "off-label", but without the necessary bloodwork and testing to support the prescribing of medications for these populations—they will be some of the most vulnerable patient populations subject to toxic doses and other life-threatening consequences. The citizens of Ohio deserve to be protected, and House Bill 73 would establish that the State of Ohio disregards patient safety.

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.

Sincerely,
Melissa Wilmer, Claire Wallace, and Marissa Mitchell
Current PharmD Candidates