

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.

My name is Ryan Kruse, and I am a hospital pharmacist. I have been practicing in a hospital for the past 23 years. At my place of employment, we care for individuals in all stages of their life. We are the only hospital in our county and have a large responsibility of taking care of our community. We strive to provide care in a safe and effective manner that aligns to best practice recommendations in the medical literature. This has helped our community manage disease states that they are impacted by and live enjoyable lives.

I am writing to express my concern that House Bill 73 will harm the Ohio patients whom I care for in inpatient settings. Having a controlled environment is vital for the diagnosis and treatment of a medical condition in an acute care setting. Quite frequently a patient's home medication regimen is interrupted while a diagnosis is made. Home medications may impact laboratory and other diagnostic testing results, and this information is factored into treatment decisions. Medication changes are then made to treat the patient appropriately. Patients are then instructed on medications changes as they are discharged from our facility. House Bill 73 removes the ability to have a controlled environment through its mandate for pharmacists to dispense any off-label prescription that they receive.

Patients can take any medication or treatment when they are at home and this right should be protected. House Bill 73 oversteps when moving into treatment decisions in an acute hospital setting. My understanding is that House Bill 73 was introduced because of ivermectin and COVID-19. This was a very challenging time for everyone when faced with a pandemic. Personally, it was very difficult because I lost one of my favorite individuals in this world, my grandma. It was in the first months of the pandemic, and it happened very quickly when she was at a skilled nursing facility.

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,

Ryan Kruse, PharmD, MBA