

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 Jill Blind and I am a pharmacist. I currently practice in setting that cares for one of our state's most vulnerable populations--pediatrics. **I am writing to express my concern that House Bill 73 will harm our patients.**

My Concern: Off-label prescribing already exists and I, as a pediatric pharmacist, facilitate off-label prescribing every day in my practice. There are countless medications on the market that do not carry pediatric indications, therefore pediatric pharmacy practice requires my professional judgment in the safe dispensing of off-label prescriptions. **This bill is not about allowing off-label dispensing, it is about "requiring" pharmacists to dispense any off-label prescription they receive. This bill would require me to dispense medications that I, in my professional judgement, deem clinically toxic or unsafe for our Ohio children.**

I would like to re-emphasize that I have no opposition to off-label medication use, because clinically appropriate off-label prescribing already occurs with an extremely high frequency in my pediatric practice setting. House Bill 73 does not expand access to off label prescribing because it is already exists; instead, House Bill 73 **removes patient protections** by requiring pediatric pharmacists to dispense any prescription for an off-label use of a medication that we receive, even when it would harm our patients. I support and endorse the principled use of off-label medications for my patients. Pediatric pharmacy practice would not exist without it. My concerns with House Bill 73 are that it moves past the safe use of off-label medications and requires pharmacists to dispense medications that we recognize would lead to patient harm. ***I cannot begin to imagine how I would feel, if forced to decide between upholding the law or keeping one of my pediatric patients safe from a prescription that I know will harm them.*** In an attempt to prevent pharmacists from refusing to dispense medications on the grounds of scientific objection, House Bill 73 **removes the last line of defense for the safe use of off-label medication in our children.** House Bill 73 **will undoubtedly lead to harm.**

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.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill E. Blind". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jill E. Blind, PharmD, CCRP