

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 Zachary Holtzapple, MD. I am currently a practicing third year internal medicine resident who is also pursuing sub specialization in pulmonology and critical care who is a native of Northwest Ohio and who plans to return to the area to practice. I am writing to express my concern that House Bill 73 will harm the Ohio patients whom I care for, **both now and in the future.**

Requiring providers to obtain explicit consent for each patient when prescribing off-label medications introduces significant challenges that can undermine efficiency in healthcare settings. Off-label prescribing is a common practice driven by clinical evidence, experience, and the necessity to provide effective treatment for conditions that lack approved therapies. Forcing providers to navigate additional paperwork **will** disrupt the workflow in already strained medical environments. Providers will need to spend valuable time on direct patient care, not additional paperwork.

Ultimately, mandating consent for every off-label prescription could erode the flexibility and autonomy providers rely on to tailor care to individual patient needs. Medical decisions are nuanced and require a balance of clinical judgment, current research, and patient-specific factors. While informed consent is a cornerstone of ethical practice, excessively rigid protocols could interfere.

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,
Zachary Holtzapple, MD
PGY-3 Internal Medicine Resident
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