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**HB 229 Proponent Testimony**  
**House General Government Committee**  
**June 3, 2025**

Chairwoman Ray, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Brent, and members of the House General Government Committee, my name is Michelle Weiss, and I am testifying on behalf of the Ohio Hematology Oncology Society. Our society represents over 220 oncology and hematology providers in Ohio. We commend Representative Deeter for introducing and we provide strong support of House Bill 229, which aims to establish a comprehensive licensing and regulatory framework for pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) in Ohio.

**The Need for PBM Regulation in Oncology Care**

PBMs play a pivotal role in the administration of prescription drug benefits, influencing drug pricing, reimbursement rates, and patient access to medications. In oncology, where timely access to life-saving therapies is critical, the opaque practices of some PBMs have led to delays in treatment, increased out-of-pocket costs for patients, and financial strain on oncology practices.

House Bill 229 addresses these concerns by introducing transparency and accountability measures, including:

- **Licensing Requirements:** Mandating that PBMs obtain licensure from the Ohio Department of Insurance ensures state oversight and adherence to established standards.
- **Contractual Transparency:** Requiring written agreements between PBMs and plan sponsors detailing services, compensation, and terms promotes clarity and fairness in dealings.
- **Financial Disclosures:** Obligating PBMs to disclose rebates, pricing discounts, and financial arrangements enhances transparency and allows for better assessment of cost structures.
- **Fiduciary Duty:** Establishing that PBMs act as fiduciaries to insurers aligns their operations with the best interests of patients and healthcare providers.

**Implications for Oncology Patients and Providers**

For oncology patients, House Bill 229 promises improved access to necessary medications without undue financial or administrative barriers. For providers, it offers a more predictable and transparent reimbursement environment, enabling practices to focus on delivering high-quality care rather than navigating complex PBM processes.

The Ohio Hematology Oncology Society believes that House Bill 229 is a critical step toward ensuring that PBMs operate in a manner that prioritizes patient care and supports healthcare providers. We urge the committee to favorably consider this legislation to enhance the integrity and efficiency of Ohio's healthcare system.

Thank you for your attention and commitment to improving healthcare for Ohioans.

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