



Informed Choice Maryland

16 McKee Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21742

603-505-2032

info@informedchoicemaryland.com

www.informedchoicemaryland.com

Proponent Testimony for Ohio House Bill 12

Submitted by Danielle Lasher, President, Informed Choice Maryland

Chairman Schmidt, Vice Chair Deeter, Ranking Member Somani, and Members of the House Health Committee, thank you for hearing my support testimony for HB 12 The Jeff Dave & Angie Patient Right to Try Act.

My name is Danielle Lasher, and I am the President of Informed Choice Maryland, an organization dedicated to protecting patient rights, promoting informed consent, and preserving the integrity of the doctor-patient relationship. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of House Bill 12, the "Jeff, Dave, and Angie Patient Right to Try Act," which takes critical steps to empower patients and safeguard healthcare providers in Ohio.

HB 12 ensures that patients can access life-saving, FDA-approved drugs prescribed by their doctors, whether from outpatient pharmacies or in hospital settings. This bill protects patients' rights by preventing pharmacists from arbitrarily refusing to fill valid prescriptions, except in cases of genuine moral objections or clear life-threatening risks. This provision is essential to ensuring that patients can trust their prescriptions will be honored and their treatment plans respected.

Furthermore, HB 12 protects healthcare providers by prohibiting licensing boards from taking punitive actions against them for exercising medical free speech. This includes speaking openly about the risks of drugs or vaccines and suggesting alternative treatment options that align with a patient's needs and informed consent. The bill also shields providers from disciplinary measures when prescribing off-label drugs that a patient has knowingly consented to, fostering trust and open communication in the doctor-patient relationship.

Informed Choice Maryland strongly supports legislation like HB 12, which restores patient autonomy and protects the sacred bond between doctors and their patients. We believe this bill sets a powerful example for states across the country, and we urge Ohio to lead the way in prioritizing patient rights and medical freedom.

Please protect patients' access to life-saving drugs prescribed by their doctors and ensure healthcare providers can practice without fear of retribution for advocating for their patients. Please restore the doctor-patient relationship by voting YES on HB 12.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Danielle Lasher
President, Informed Choice Maryland