

## Witness Testimony for HB 12

April 21, 2025

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. I am a Family Nurse Practitioner, currently on hiatus, with decades of experience in health care.

I have interacted with patients both as a nurse and later a nurse practitioner in various areas of medicine. I even worked at facilities that participated in research and research registries. I am well aware of consenting patients regarding different therapies as well as medications. There has been long-standing use of off label medications for a variety of reasons. These include lack of known current treatments, maximizing on a known side effect of the medication, and using it for the patients benefit, or because the drug had been used in this manner for a long time without further research done on its off label use. A good example of off-label use was Erythromycin which was used for the treatment of gastroparesis for decades despite its original use as an antibiotic. It was not until more recent years that a company decided to actually perform research regarding gastroparesis, and the result of this was significantly increased prices for the patient and their insurance which caused lack of affordability, and thereby lack of accessibility for many patients who had previously benefited from this known side effect. Other well-known off label use is the use of seizure medications in the treatment of migraines.

I have also personally used an off label medication in my family as there was no known FDA approved therapy for that medical condition. While it might not have been the most ideal treatment, it was better than no treatment at all. And it was ultimately my choice after reviewing the risks and benefits of proceeding with our family physician.

I am amazed that this became such a political issue in 2020 because healthcare professionals should have been advocating for any reasonable

therapy for patients with Covid instead of maligning anyone who dared to think outside the box for a novel situation. Historically, doctors have been innovative, and while we can look back at history, and see where those with new ideas were indeed made fun of ( ie. Semmelweis and hand washing), it is a shame that in our modern times, we could not do better than that in 2020. It is extremely concerning that other health care professionals came out against these innovative healthcare professionals, wanting to silence them and their ideas instead of being open minded to various approaches to treating something we had not fully seen before. Instead of embracing innovation, politics appears to have stood in the way, silencing HCPs and resulting in death and poor patient outcomes.

It has always been a standard that healthcare professionals should be honest on drug and vaccine risks and unfortunately, I can say that I have noted healthcare professionals not fully enumerating the risks at times, particularly with vaccinations, to me as a mother, regarding the health of my children. We have constitutional right of free speech, and we definitely should protect this right for our healthcare professionals so that they feel enable to freely speak their mind, the truth, and the known risks without fear of any retribution.

In summary, I am writing to support FDA approved drugs that are prescribed by my doctor be accessible both via outpatient and inpatient pharmacies, and I support this for patients in Ohio. I also support prohibiting licensing boards from taking actions against healthcare providers if they speak up on alternative treatments or are honest about drug or vaccine risks. This is basic human integrity and the Hippocratic Oath. I support prohibiting license boards from taking action against healthcare providers who prescribe an off label medication that a patient has consented to after being made aware of risks vs benefits.

I urge the committee to vote YES on HB 12.

Thank you

Mandi Wolfe  
Hilliard, Ohio