

Chair Schmidt, Vice Chair Deeter, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide my personal opponent testimony on House Bill 12.

My name is Rachel Kahle, and I am a professor of pharmacy practice and practicing clinical pharmacist in a rural hospital. I train future pharmacists of this state every day and help those who come to the hospital by ensuring proper medications are both safe and effective for their current illness. I am writing to express my concern that House Bill 12 will harm the Ohio patients whom I care for every day.

HB 12 is a dangerous proposal that would force pharmacists to fill prescriptions they know could harm patients, stripping them of the ability to use their professional judgment. Pharmacists are highly trained healthcare providers who play a crucial role in ensuring medication safety. Requiring them to dispense drugs against their better judgment not only endangers individual patients but also undermines the entire system of checks and balances designed to prevent harmful medical errors.

This bill also removes critical legal safeguards by shielding prescribers from accountability when their actions cause harm. By eliminating liability for knowingly dangerous prescriptions, HB 12 creates a legal vacuum in which patients have no recourse if they are injured by reckless or unethical medical practices. This not only puts lives at risk but sets a dangerous precedent that prioritizes politics over public health and safety.

HB 12 threatens to erode the ethical foundation of healthcare in Ohio. Forcing providers to ignore their conscience or medical training in favor of political mandates damages the trust patients place in their healthcare teams. When medical decisions are driven by ideology rather than evidence-based care, everyone suffers—especially the most vulnerable members of our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony in opposition to House Bill 12 and for your time appreciating how harmful it will be to the people of Ohio.

*Rachel E. Kahle*