

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 Kimberly Brandt, and I am an inpatient Clinical Pharmacy Specialist. I currently practice in Infectious Disease and Antimicrobial Stewardship and have a background in Critical Care. As a result, I have helped to care for some of the most vulnerable patients in the hospital. I am writing to express my concern that House Bill 12 will harm the Ohio patients whom I care for every day.

House Bill 12 would require pharmacists to make a good faith effort to obtain any medication ordered by a provider regardless of the hospital's medication stock or associated policies. This creates a tremendous logistical burden on an already overworked health care system, is at-odds with existing best practices corresponding to the responsible use of medications, and risks creating medication shortages due to the undisciplined use of medications that are affected by supply issues. Thoughtful prescribing of medications is key for the long-term health of our patients and state, but House Bill 12 abandons these principles by forcing individual pharmacists to obtain and dispense any medication ordered regardless of scientific appropriateness, availability, and established guidance for optimal use.

Furthermore, as an Antimicrobial Stewardship Pharmacist, I have significant concerns regarding the impact that House Bill 12 might have on antimicrobial resistance. If House Bill 12 passes, prescribers could utilize antibiotics for a variety of off-label indications not intended to treat infections. As a pharmacist, I would then be required to fill these medications, even though the responsible use of antibiotics is critical to preventing the development and spread of antibiotic resistance.

Finally, Pharmacists are a key part of the health care team, and Ohio is lagging behind the rest of the country in terms of pharmacist job growth. In being the only state that would place pharmacists in impossible situations which force them to dispense harmful medications to patients, and in limiting the scope of practice of pharmacists in the state of Ohio, House Bill 12 will further exacerbate this negative trend of pharmacy jobs in our state by driving pharmacists and student pharmacists elsewhere.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberly Brandt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kimberly Brandt, PharmD, BCCCP