

The proposed HB 12 is a serious concern in Ohio. Pharmacists have long since protected the community from dangerous prescribing practices, as is the nature of the profession. Pharmacists are seen by the community as one of the most trusted healthcare professionals, falling only behind nurses, veterinarians, engineers, dentists, and medical doctors (according to the Gallup poll of 2023). This trust remains even when accounting for political party affiliation. In an age of misinformation, it is beyond critical that pharmacists retain their autonomy in the dispensing of medications. Pharmacists are beholden to science and should not be beholden to politics. Politics do not belong in Ohio healthcare. I implore the committee that continues to push this bill (formerly HB 73) to explore avenues that would make our Ohio community healthier. I implore them to expand access to healthcare by expanding Medicaid, by expanding SNAP, by prioritizing public transportation. By prioritizing bills like HB 12, this committee seeks to waste taxpayer dollars in a political witch hunt so that dangerous and life threatening medications may be given out in the name of fake science.