

Dear Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Newton, Ranking Member Liston, and Members of the House Health Committee,

My name is Joel Thornbury, and I am a licensed pharmacist residing in Troy, Ohio. I respectfully submit this written testimony opposing **House Bill 12**, formally known as the *Jeff, Dave, and Angie Patient Right to Try Act*.

Let me begin by saying that I fully support patients' rights to explore treatment options and access needed medications. However, HB12 does not simply protect access. Instead, it **removes the professional judgment pharmacists are trained and licensed to exercise**, forcing them to dispense off-label prescriptions—even when the use is unsupported by sound clinical evidence or raises significant safety concerns.

As a pharmacist with over 30 years of experience serving underserved communities, including in rural Eastern Kentucky, I have spent my career balancing access with safety. That includes working alongside physicians, educating patients, and making critical decisions about whether a medication is appropriate. This collaborative and evidence-based process is foundational to our profession and vital to public trust.

HB12 would compel Ohio pharmacists to fill any off-label prescription, regardless of their professional assessment, unless an extremely narrow exception is met. It would even require honoring questionable prescriptions from out-of-state providers, potentially enabling “pill mill” behaviors. By restricting pharmacists' ability to intervene when a therapy is inappropriate or harmful, this bill **creates risk, not freedom, for patients**.

The bill's emotional title may imply that opposition is against patient rights, but that is not the case. My concern is about ensuring that **Ohioans continue to receive care informed by science, ethics, and experience**—the very standards that protect them every day in every pharmacy across the state. Right to try must not mean wrong to override professional safeguards.

I urge you to reject HB12 and preserve pharmacists' essential role as active, accountable, and clinically responsible members of the healthcare team.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Sincerely,
Joel Thornbury, RPh
408 Grant Street
Troy, OH 45373
606-424-1099