

Ohio House Bill 12 – OPPOSE

Dear Speaker Huffman, Majority Floor Leader John, Minority floor Leader Russo and members of the Ohio House of Representatives:

As a citizen of the State of Ohio, I am writing in strong opposition to House Bill (HB) 12, which will place the safety of Ohio citizens at risk by disrupting healthcare delivery in our state.

As a pharmacist that has worked in health-systems, in rural community settings, and working alongside physicians in a primary care setting, I have seen firsthand the reliance and trust of the public on pharmacists and the reliance of pharmacists as medication experts by other healthcare professionals...including physicians.

Here are few examples of the pharmacists' role in current healthcare system that could be in jeopardy if HB 12 passes:

1. In health-systems, pharmacists often go on daily rounds other members of the healthcare team, allowing all to provide their trained expertise in the best interest of the patient. Pharmacists are relied up on to determine streamline antibiotic therapies, adjust medication doses based on a patient's condition, and adjust therapy based on potential or active drug interactions. If HB 12 were to stand, a physician, whether licensed for 1 month or 40 years, would be able to ignore or inadvertently go against the recommendation of a pharmacist and enter an order; an order that would not be required to be dispensed even if notes in the patient chart recommend against it.
2. In primary care settings, physicians treat a number of conditions for patients. While electronic health records have helped, these physicians still do not see the entire medication profile of a patient. If HB were to stand, a primary care physician could inadvertently prescribe a medication that has a drug-drug or drug-disease interaction with another medication that could result in patient harm. The pharmacist would be required to dispense this medication, knowing that it could result in patient harm.
3. In a long-term care facility, patients are often going through many medication changes as they progress to end of life. Pharmacists are involved in this setting to review these medications and make safe dosing recommendations for patients. If HB 12 were to stand, a medication could be written for a medication that could cause significant harm or even premature death in this fragile environment.
4. In a rural setting, a pharmacist may be the only healthcare professional in the town. The pharmacists is trusted by the community and first place they come for medical advice and triage. If HB 12 were to the stand, this trusted pharmacist would be required to dispense a medication knowing that is not indicated for that patient's current condition, possibly from an online visit from a provider that has never seen the individual in person and doesn't understand the whole socioeconomic situation of the individual.

House Bill 12 poses a serious threat to the health and safety of Ohio's communities by undermining the essential role of pharmacists in our healthcare system. Pharmacists are extensively trained and

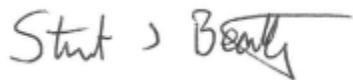
serve as a critical line of defense in patient care, applying their specialized knowledge and clinical expertise to ensure medications are used safely and effectively.

By removing pharmacists' ability to apply their judgment, this bill directly endangers public health and wellbeing. While few and far between, we have seen rogue physicians and providers in our state before. Ohio was ground zero of the opioid pill mills for which we are still recovering. A national news story on a physician that was causing premature death at an Ohio health-system. HB 12 will make it easier for these occurrences by eliminating the safety valve of a pharmacist from the pathway.

The State of Ohio should not be a testing ground for the trial of personal liberty against medication safety. I urge you to consider the repercussions of HB 12 and oppose this legislation. If passed, it is not a matter of if a costly, preventable error occurs, but when.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me directly at stubeatty@hotmail.com or 614-371-2393.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Stuart Beatty". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Stuart Beatty, PharmD, MPAL, BCACP, FPAhA