

Written Testimony in Opposition of HB 324 - Patient Protection Act - by Katheryne Ruck, DO,
Family Physician
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Chair Schmidt, Vice Chair Deeter, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony. My name is Katheryne Ruck and I am a board certified Family Physician practicing in Ohio. I care for all ages and all demographics. I am here today to express my strong opposition to House Bill 324. My duty as a physician is to protect my patients - and first and foremost to do no harm.

Every physician takes an oath during medical school that states we will do no harm. We vow to walk beside our patients and guide them toward health. This bill not only does not improve the current state of medical care in Ohio, it makes it harder for our patients to access medical care. With regards to HB 324 restricting the use of mail for prescription drugs – many of our patients own insurance companies require that they use mail order pharmacies for their prescriptions. Preventing mail delivery of prescriptions places an additional burden on patients wallets and time.

Rural Ohioans make up roughly 22% of our population. I have patients who drive an hour to see me for their appointments. With advances in technology, we now have telehealth/telemedicine at our fingertips. I am able to provide appropriate care, counseling, and guidance with the use of technology - saving patients time and money. HB 324 is inserting the government into the physician-patient relationship and it omits clinical reasoning and decision making. In medicine, all decisions regarding patients' care are weighed and risks, benefits, and alternatives to care are discussed in great detail. These discussions are nuanced and individualized to each patient. Furthermore, each medication that is prescribed has been carefully researched and studied in randomized control trials. Therefore, it is concerning to me that the basis of what can and can't be prescribed, who needs an in person appointment will be based on insurance data rather than science.

I urge you to reject this legislation and instead work with your physician and nurse colleagues and our professional organizations to create policies that strengthen Ohioans access to care - rather than to restrict it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Katheryne Ruck, DO