



Jennifer Kucera

Chair, Ohio Olmstead Task Force

November 18, 2025

Interested Party Testimony, House Bill 324

Thank you, Chair Schmidt, Vice Chair Deeter, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the House Health Committee, for the opportunity to testify on the importance of ensuring disabled Ohioans are not negatively impacted by the Patient Protection Act. My name is Jennifer Kucera, and I am Chair of the Ohio Olmstead Task Force.

The Ohio Olmstead Task Force (OOTF) is a statewide grassroots coalition of Ohioans with disabilities of all ages, family members, advocates and organizations advocating for the right to live, work and participate in their communities. Formed in 2002, OOTF supports the Supreme Court decision that held unnecessary institutionalization is discrimination against people with disabilities. On behalf of this organization, please accept this testimony regarding HB324.

As a group who advocates to ensure people with disabilities have access to healthcare, we are concerned with the following provisions of the bill:

- 5% adverse event threshold;
- Restrictions on Telehealth visits; and
- Limits to mail-order pharmacies.

The 5% Adverse Event Threshold

Adverse events with medications are not an effective measurement to understanding side effects and medical risk. There are multiple factors that may give rise to an adverse event like the following:

- Events differ between individuals with medications that a single percentage cannot account for;
- Some medications that treat high-risk or life-threatening conditions may have an adverse event as a side effect; however, the benefits outweigh the risk;
- Adverse event data describes causation and not correlation, especially when individuals are on multiple medications that may weaken the immune system.

It is important to be aware that when using multiple data sources, the result can skew statistics which may result in the inability of people with disabilities accessing their needed medications.

Restrictions on Telehealth Appointments

Telehealth is a vital component of healthcare access for people with disabilities. This bill places restrictions on individuals accessing care by requiring in-person appointments. People with disabilities often have transportation barriers, caregiver issues, financial strains, and immunocompromised that limit their ability to appear in-person for a medical appointment.

It is important to ensure that Telehealth access remains an option so that people with disabilities do not encounter disruptions in their care.

Limits on Mail-Order Pharmacies

Mail-delivery of medications support individuals who do not have reliable transportation, those unable to drive, those who live in rural areas, and individuals who have to manage multiple medications. These systems also reduce costs by allowing a 90-day fill and insurance preferred delivery method.

People with disabilities often rely on a lot of medications that could be considered harmful; however, there aren't other options. We want to ensure that Ohio looks at how this legislation can impact the disability community, understand the access limitations it proposes, and how clinical complexities are not accounted for.

We are available to answer questions, supply additional context, and share further disability-related insights as needed.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Kucera

Chair, The Ohio Olmstead Task Force

Jenniferkucera134@gmail.com