



OHIO PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION

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Chair Lampton, Vice Chair Craig, Ranking Member Tims, and members of the House Insurance Committee,

I write in support of House Bill 33, which provides coverage for certain males who meet specific criteria for the screening of prostate cancer. Historically, this type of screening was considered routine, but recently health insurers have begun to remove this preventative care from health coverage. Somewhat akin to breast cancer, early screening, testing, and detection dramatically improve the probability of survival. Without access to screening, by the time symptoms become pronounced, prostate cancer is often well advanced. This leads to less treatment options and a decreased survival rate. All this could be prevented with basic and inexpensive testing in an annual exam. With early detection, prostate cancer can generally be treated without prostate removal and the patient continues to work or live their life.

House Bill 33 sets a high standard of qualification for such testing. Basic prostate-specific antigen blood tests have long been routine. Even digital examinations can reveal early states of both rectal and prostate cancer. These tests are an inexpensive alternative to advanced cancer treatment. Those at risk should have the ability to be tested.

Please support House Bill 33 and allow high-risk males a coverage benefit of early cancer detection rather than advanced cancer treatment.

Respectfully,

David E. Burke, RPh, MBA
Executive Director
Ohio Pharmacists Association