



Representative Tex Fischer
59th Ohio House District

Chair Lampton, Vice Chair Craig, Ranking Member Tims, and members of the House Insurance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 192, the Community Pharmacy Protection Act. In 2024, Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost introduced a bipartisan coalition of 39 attorneys general urging Congress to reform the current practices of pharmacy benefit managers. Despite their original intention to reduce the financial burden of prescription drugs, they have, as the Attorney General puts it, “shifted their focus to maximizing profits and marginalizing local pharmacies from the marketplace.”

Across the board, people agree that pharmacies in Ohio are closing at an alarming rate. These deserts of pharmaceutical access that we are seeing develop are partly a result of the impacts PBMs have had on the prescription drug market. A 2024 study by the FTC found that 6 PBMs filled 95% of all scripts in the US and that the market is dominated by a few large, vertically integrated providers. Fortunately, there is a lot of momentum for meaningful change that can help put a stop to these practices that, at the end of the day, hurt the average Ohioan above all else.

Just a few weeks ago, President Trump signed an executive order to target these practices and “reevaluate the role of middlemen in the pharmaceutical value chain.” The time is now to make meaningful changes here in Ohio so that we can provide a level playing field for small pharmacies and protect hard-working Ohioans.

Regardless of our political differences, we all tell our constituents that we want to protect small businesses and lower prescription drug prices. This bill provides us the opportunity to accomplish both of those goals in one yes vote. I want to thank my joint sponsor, Representative Barhorst, for his many years of work on this issue.

Thank you again for allowing me to testify here today, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Committees:

General Government – Vice Chair
Energy
Development
Natural Resources

www.ohiohouse.gov
77 S. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111

Contact Information:

Office: 614-466-6107
FAX: 614-719-3959
Email: rep59@ohiohouse.gov