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Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio (LSS Health Center)
House Insurance Committee
Testimony on House Bill 276
June 17, 2025

Chairman Lampton, Vice Chair Craig, Ranking Member Tims, and Members of the House Insurance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 276, the Ohio 340B Pharmacy Access Act. My name is Alyssa Huddleston, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Lutheran Social Services Health Center, a federally qualified health center also known as a Community Health Center (CHC).

We operate two Healthcare for the Homeless sites, located on campus with the LSS Faith Mission shelter and LSS CHOICES, the only domestic violence shelter in Franklin County. We serve approximately 2,000 clients each year and conduct over 7,000 visits. Our services include primary care, women's health, vision, dental, behavioral health, substance use disorder treatment, psychiatry, and HIV prevention and treatment.

At the heart of our mission is a commitment to deliver comprehensive, high-quality, and affordable healthcare to every Ohioan—especially those in underserved communities. A critical tool that enables us to fulfill this mission is the 340B Drug Pricing Program.

The 340B program is not just a policy—it is a foundational support system for Community Health Centers across our state. It allows us to reinvest savings into vital services that would otherwise be out of reach for many patients. I respectfully refer to the Ohio Association of Community Health Centers' (OACHC) testimony for a full overview of the program's structure and history. Today I want to focus on how 340B directly impacts Lutheran Social Services Health Center and the people we serve.

When Congress created the 340B program, they made their intent clear: to allow safety-net providers to "stretch scarce federal resources as far as possible, reaching more eligible patients and providing more comprehensive services." Community Health Centers like ours were designed to do exactly that. At Lutheran Social Services Health Center, we use 340B savings to cover necessary programs that are otherwise unsustainable, such as funding emergency and preventative dental care, supporting sliding fee discounts, and covering non reimbursable services like case management and health education for patients with diabetes.

Unfortunately, the sustainability of this essential program is now at risk. Since 2020, more than 35 drug manufacturers have imposed unilateral restrictions on the 340B program—ranging from refusing to ship medications to contract pharmacies to forcing

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health centers like ours to designate only a single pharmacy for all dispensing, regardless of geography or patient need.

For example, at Lutheran Social Services Health Center, we do not currently operate an in-house pharmacy and, therefore, rely on our 340B contract pharmacies. We have faced challenges from manufacturer restrictions that force us to choose just one pharmacy for all sites across Franklin County, at 532 square miles, resulting in patient access barriers. These restrictions harm our ability to serve patients efficiently and comprehensively. Patients may now be required to travel significant distances to access medications—or worse, go without. This undermines both the clinical effectiveness of treatment and care our patients deserve.

These attacks not only disrupt care—they jeopardize the financial viability of Community Health Centers. At Lutheran Social Services Health Center we have projected a potential loss of 7% in funds due to 340B losses.

HB 276 is a concise, targeted bill that addresses this issue head-on. It prohibits manufacturers from limiting access to necessary medications simply because the provider is a 340B grantee. In doing so, it safeguards access to care for all Ohioans across urban, rural, Appalachia, and medically underserved areas.

This legislation closes dangerous loopholes and reaffirms the original intent of the 340B program. Though narrowly focused, HB 276 will have a wide-reaching and lasting positive impact on patients, communities, and the overall health of our state.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this important matter. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have

Sincerely,

Alyssa Huddleston, MSN, FNP-BC
Executive Director
LSS Health Center

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