



**Ohio Hematology Oncology Society**  
215 W. 117<sup>th</sup> Street, #1261  
Cleveland, Ohio 44111  
614-721-2551  
[www.OHOS.org](http://www.OHOS.org)

**Michelle Weiss, CHONC**  
**Executive Director, Ohio Hematology Oncology Society**  
**House Bill 229 Proponent Testimony**  
**Senate Financial Institutions, Insurance and Technology Committee**  
**November 4, 2025**

Chairman Wilson, Vice Chair Lang, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Senate Financial Institutions, Insurance and Technology Committee, my name is Michelle Weiss, and I am testifying on behalf of the Ohio Hematology Oncology Society. OHOS represents over 1,000 hematology and oncology professionals across Ohio, including physicians, advanced practice providers, pharmacists, nurses, and administrators who care for patients with cancer and blood disorders. OHOS's mission is to ensure that every Ohioan facing cancer has access to high-quality, evidence-based, and timely care close to home. OHOS works closely with payers, policymakers, and patient advocates to remove barriers to treatment and to promote policies that strengthen cancer care delivery throughout the state. We commend Representative Deeter for introducing and we provide strong support of House Bill 229, which aims to establish a comprehensive licensing and regulatory framework for pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) in Ohio.

**The Need for PBM Regulation in Oncology Care**

PBMs play a pivotal role in the administration of prescription drug benefits, influencing drug pricing, reimbursement rates, and patient access to medications. In oncology, where timely access to life-saving therapies is critical, the opaque practices of some PBMs have led to delays in treatment, increased out-of-pocket costs for patients, and financial strain on oncology practices.

House Bill 229 addresses these concerns by introducing transparency and accountability measures, including:

- **Licensing Requirements:** Mandating that PBMs obtain licensure from the Ohio Department of Insurance ensures state oversight and adherence to established standards.
- **Contractual Transparency:** Requiring written agreements between PBMs and plan sponsors detailing services, compensation, and terms promotes clarity and fairness in dealings.
- **Financial Disclosures:** Obligating PBMs to disclose rebates, pricing discounts, and financial arrangements enhances transparency and allows for better assessment of cost structures.
- **Fiduciary Duty:** Establishing that PBMs act as fiduciaries to insurers aligns their operations with the best interests of patients and healthcare providers.

**Implications for Oncology Patients and Providers**

For oncology patients, House Bill 229 promises improved access to necessary medications without undue financial or administrative barriers. For providers, it offers a more predictable and transparent reimbursement environment, enabling practices to focus on delivering high-quality care rather than navigating complex PBM processes.

The Ohio Hematology Oncology Society believes that House Bill 229 is a critical step toward ensuring that PBMs operate in a manner that prioritizes patient care and supports healthcare providers. We urge the committee to favorably consider this legislation to enhance the integrity and efficiency of Ohio's healthcare system.

Thank you for your attention and commitment to improving healthcare for Ohioans.

**OHOS Board Members**

*Slobodan Stanisic, MD - President*  
*Shabana Dewani, MD - Trustee*

*Charles Bane, MD - Vice-President*  
*Raza Kahn, MD - Trustee*