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Chair Manchester, Vice Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Weinstein, and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony today on House Bill 96, the state operating budget. My name is Casey McFadden. I am a pharmacist and independent pharmacy owner.

I am writing to you about HB 96 and its current verbiage about fair Pharmacy Reimbursements. I previously testified in person for HB 505 regarding my local independent pharmacy in Bainbridge, Ohio 45612 -McFadden Pharmacy. I've been a pharmacist since 1996 and pharmacy business owner since 2003 and have never been more threatened by current pharmacy reimbursement rates than now. Pharmacy has come to a point where I must decide between providing pharmaceutical health care to a patient or sending them down the road to a chain pharmacy due to unfair reimbursements. As a small business I cannot afford to withstand the large losses that are currently happening on medications simply on the invoice cost of medication let alone the cost to dispense it. I am forced to make tough decisions about continuing to dispense medications at a loss or losing a customer. As for the customer, that possibly means not getting the medication at all due to the distance and money required to get to another pharmacy location.

As a rural pharmacy the next available pharmacy and healthcare (physician's office) is over 15 miles away. That makes McFadden Pharmacy the only destination for any type of in-person healthcare. Citizens in this area would be drastically affected by any closure of McFadden Pharmacy. McFadden pharmacy provides free delivery services, often driving up to 70 miles in a single day to patients that cant afford to have transportation or simply aren't able to get out of their homes. Two Pharmacies within a 15-mile radius have closed their doors already, Fruth Pharmacy and Rite Aid Pharmacy, making medications already more difficult to receive. As owner of a small business, I already have cut and managed everything that I can. Things such as inventory, expenses, and payroll have been cut to bare minimums, yet operating margins continue to drop.

I urge you to support HB 96 as it is currently written regarding fair pharmacy reimbursements. HB 96 should help allow pharmacies to receive fair reimbursement for



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medications which would ensure that my pharmacy as well as others can continue to operate and provide healthcare to the areas they serve. Ohio Pharmacies, specifically independent pharmacies, must receive help to continue to operate at a sustainable financial status otherwise pharmacy and pharmacy availability will disappear as you know it, along with the most patient accessible healthcare there is. Please make this a priority!

Feel free to contact me at any point, I would love to have come in person but as the single pharmacist in a small pharmacy I simply cant afford to leave more that I have too.

Thanks

Casey McFadden

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