

May 13, 2025

Subject: Support for HB96 - Ensuring Fair Pharmacy Reimbursement and Access to Care

Dear Members of the Ohio State Senate,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 96, legislation that introduces fair pharmacy reimbursement language. This bill addresses two critical issues facing Ohio's healthcare landscape: the alarming rate of community pharmacy closures and the growing problem of pharmacy deserts.

The statistics are concerning. The closure of 191 community pharmacies in 2024 alone – roughly 10% of all such establishments – represents a significant loss of vital healthcare resources for Ohioans. **Speaking from personal experience, I was forced to close the retail portion of my pharmacy in Huber Heights, Ohio, this past January due to unsustainable low reimbursement rates that made it impossible to pay my employees a fair wage. Tragically, just this month, Pelfrey's Pharmacy, also in Huber Heights, was forced to close its doors as well.**

These closures disproportionately impact local, independent pharmacies, which are small businesses deeply embedded in their communities. Supporting fair reimbursement through HB96 is a crucial step in sustaining these "mom and pop" businesses. **As a pharmacist, pharmacy owner, and CEO of Independent Rx Consulting, I have witnessed firsthand the devastating impact of these closures. Several of my clients, including Cedarville and Waynesville, are now designated pharmacy deserts, leaving residents with severely limited access to essential medications and pharmacist care.**

Beyond the economic impact on independent pharmacies, these closures directly threaten patient access to pharmacists and essential medications. As more pharmacies close, particularly in rural and underserved areas, we risk creating more pharmacy deserts. This lack of access to healthcare professionals and timely prescriptions can have severe consequences for the health and well-being of Ohio residents, regardless of their zip code.

HB96 offers a practical solution by promoting fair reimbursement practices. This will help stabilize community pharmacies, allowing them to continue serving their patients and communities. By slowing the rate of closures, this bill will safeguard access to pharmacists, ensure timely medication dispensing, and mitigate the expansion of

pharmacy deserts across Ohio.

I urge you to recognize the critical importance of HB96 in protecting both local businesses and the healthcare access of all Ohioans. Please support its swift passage in the Senate.

Sincerely,

Timothy Clark owner  
Clark's Rx Pharmacy  
Oakwood, Ohio