

Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee

House Bill 96 | May 14, 2025

Denise Conway Testimony

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 on House Bill 96, the state operating budget.

I am an independent pharmacy owner of Conway's Danville Pharmacy in Danville, Ohio since we opened in October 2019, a small rural farming community, and the past owner of Conway's Eastside Pharmacy (opened in 2006) in Mount Vernon. I bought a building in Danville, Ohio in 2018 and opened an independent pharmacy in 2019 just before COVID hit because this small community had no pharmacy available within 20 minutes of this surrounding area. This area has a strong Amish community where transportation is very challenging and access to healthcare is limited. Not to mention the strong community of Danville and its surrounding villages is home to MANY aging individuals, with little to no transportation and very limited budgets to obtain healthcare services and prescriptions. If you do not know a situation like this or if you have not seen a community like this, I URGE you to take a road trip and see 14 East Main Street, Danville, Ohio 43014, the exact reason why I passionately urge you to support House Bill (HB) 96.

The fair pharmacy reimbursement provisions in HB 96 are exactly what will continue to allow my staff to provide the superior healthcare and medications to all patients that open the door of our independent pharmacy. We are the businesses in our community that supports our schools, arts programs, LOCAL Chamber of Commerce, local farmers, and partners with local small businesses in keeping our community members healthy and able to work by ensuring VITAL access to medications and healthcare. It is businesses like my own that offer FREE DELIVERY to our community members because they do not have the means to get to town. It is businesses like my own that get calls late at night asking me to open the pharmacy an hour early because they have sick children. It is businesses like mine that are seeing my patients age every day and get diagnosed with very complex disease states that overwhelm them to the point of confusion and frustration, but when they sit down with our pharmacy team, we create a plan for them to manage, understand, and be involved with their medications and chronic conditions.

These scenarios and situations are not seen by most if any of you and this is exactly what will be taken away if our Ohio government does not get a handle on Pharmacy Benefit Managers and pass HB 96 to ensure fair reimbursement provisions and minimum dispensing reimbursement. By NOT supporting HB 96 you are ensuring the RAPID increase in pharmacy closures in Ohio,

which limits access to healthcare, eliminates jobs, and further grows pharmacy desert issues. I urge you to get the correct data from the Ohio State Board of Pharmacy and the recent data review they are doing on pharmacy closures in Ohio as some opponents to HB 96 have been telling our Ohio Senators very incorrect information about pharmacy closures in our state. In fact, over 222 independent pharmacies closed in 2024, and that projection is certain to rise. The Ohio State Board of Pharmacy is working on getting our Ohio government officials the CORRECT data.

So, I write to you in support of HB 96, urge you to do the same in SUPPORT of HB 96. I also invite you to come visit my healthcare building and pharmacy to see what access to medications and healthcare can do for our communities.

Sincerely,

Denise L. Conway, R.Ph

Owner of Conway's Danville Pharmacy

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