

Thank you to Chairwoman Manchester and the Government Oversight and Reform Committee for allowing me to present testimony in support of reforms within the Ohio Budget Bill (HB96) that will allow pharmacies in Ohio to be reimbursed fairly.

I am asking you to keep in place the “fair reimbursement” language that is in HB96 that the House already passed. This language supports pharmacies, both large and small, to be able to stay in the business of providing essential front line health care. As you may be aware, the pharmacy reimbursement model is broken as the insurers (which are primarily run by Pharmacy Benefit Managers) continue to dictate reduced payments to pharmacies. This erosion in reasonable reimbursements is the primary cause for 1000’s of pharmacies to close in the United States over the past five years. This includes the 200 retail pharmacies that have gone out of business in Ohio in the past year alone. HB96 goes a long way to prevent more pharmacies from closing and slowing the spread of pharmacy deserts which are emerging across Ohio. These pharmacy deserts prevent adequate access to healthcare depending on a patient’s zip code.

On a personal level, my wife and I own and operate two rural independent community pharmacies that experience the often unfair and arbitrary decrease in reimbursements required to stay in business. We have been in Prospect for 34 years in a rural southwestern Marion County where we serve a very large area offering delivery, special packaging, immunizations, drug information, etc. Our second pharmacy

is in northeastern Union County and has been there 12 years. Together we have twenty employees (full and part time) and service 1000's of patients in five counties. We are the last independent pharmacy in Union County and one of two in Marion County. And although we are busier than ever, it is very clear that we probably cannot continue to operate unless something is done, quickly, to reverse the continued and relentless squeeze in reimbursements that all pharmacies are feeling. HB96 would address this and allow pharmacies to continue to provide the necessary services to help Ohioans maintain better health.

In conclusion, I am asking you to please keep the "fair reimbursement" language in HB96, as written.

Thank you, Tim Sheehan RPh, owner of Prospect and Richwood Pharmacies