



**ADAMS COUNTY:**  
192 Chestnut Ridge Rd  
West Union, OH 45693  
Phone: 937-544-5581  
Fax: 937-544-7327

**LAWRENCE COUNTY:**  
225 Carlton Davidson Ln  
Coal Grove, OH 45638  
Phone: 740-533-0648  
Fax: 740-533-2928

**SCIOTO COUNTY:**  
901 Washington St  
Portsmouth, OH 45662  
Phone: 740-354-7702  
Fax: 740-353-6206

**Cynthia Holstein, CEO  
Shawnee Family Health Center, Inc.  
Senate Health Committee  
Testimony on Senate Bill 198  
October 15, 2025**

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Liston, and Members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill 198, the Ohio 340B Pharmacy Access Act. My name is Cynthia Holstein, and I serve as the Chief Executive Officer of Shawnee Family Health Center, a federally qualified health center look-alike also known as a Community Health Center (CHC).

Shawnee, located across Adams, Lawrence, and Scioto Counties, serves over 7,500 low-income individuals annually. In addition to offering primary care, we are a fully operational community mental health center that provides comprehensive home and community-based services for individuals with severe and persistent mental illness. Our range of services includes primary care, case management, 24/7 crisis intervention, transportation, affordable or no-cost medications, employment support, psychiatric services, counseling, and group therapy. At the heart of our mission is a commitment to deliver comprehensive, high-quality, and affordable healthcare to every Ohioan—especially those in underserved communities like ours. A critical tool that enables us to fulfill this mission is the 340B Drug Pricing Program.

The 340B program is not just a policy—it is a foundational support system for Community Health Centers across our state. It allows us to reinvest savings into vital services that would otherwise be out of reach for many patients. I respectfully refer to the Ohio Association of Community Health Centers' (OACHC) testimony for a full overview of the program's structure and history. Today I want to focus on how 340B directly impacts Shawnee and the people we serve.

When Congress created the 340B program, they made their intent clear: to allow safety-net providers to “stretch scarce federal resources as far as possible, reaching more eligible patients and providing more comprehensive services.” Community Health Centers like ours were designed to do exactly that. At Shawnee, we use 340B savings to provide transportation in all three counties for those without any means to access health care, community nursing, free medications for people without any means to pay for them.

Unfortunately, the sustainability of this essential program is now at risk. Since 2020, more than 35 drug manufacturers have imposed unilateral restrictions on the 340B program—ranging from refusing to ship medications to contract pharmacies to forcing health centers like ours to designate only a single pharmacy for all dispensing, regardless of geography or patient need.

At Shawnee, we've had to make the difficult decision to select a single pharmacy to serve all of our clinics across three counties. As a result, patients are unable to get discounted medications at a pharmacy near their home. They either go without the medication or have to travel long distances—sometimes over 100 miles one way—to reach the designated pharmacy that offers the discount. These restrictions harm our ability to serve patients efficiently and comprehensively. Patients may now be required to travel significant distances to access medications—or worse, go without. This undermines both the clinical effectiveness of treatment and care our patients deserve.

These attacks not only disrupt care—they jeopardize the financial viability of Community Health Centers. At Shawnee, we suffered a loss of \$1.4 million in fiscal year 2025 related to these restrictions. If this continues, we will be forced to lay off at least 30 employees which in turn means a reduction in access to care for people in our community.

SB 198 is a concise, targeted bill that addresses this issue head-on. It prohibits manufacturers from limiting access to necessary medications simply because the provider is a 340B grantee. In doing so, it safeguards access to care for all Ohioans across urban, rural, Appalachia, and medically underserved areas.

This legislation closes dangerous loopholes and reaffirms the original intent of the 340B program. Though narrowly focused, SB 198 will have a wide-reaching and lasting positive impact on patients, communities, and the overall health of our state.