



November 10, 2025

The Honorable Stephen Huffman
Chair, Ohio Senate Health Committee
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Huffman:

Subject: Oppose: Senate Bill 198: Higher Costs for Patients

On behalf of Patients Rising, a national non-partisan patient advocacy organization representing thousands of patients in Ohio and around the country, we respectfully request that you oppose Senate Bill 198.

Senate Bill 198 will increase costs for patients, employers, and taxpayers in Ohio - while further exacerbating problems within the \$66 billion 340B Drug Pricing Program. The federal 340B Drug Pricing Program was created to help vulnerable, low-income, and rural patients access discounted medications. Yet, many covered entities don't pass those savings on to patients. Instead, covered entities keep the money for themselves, while charging patients full price.

Higher Costs for Patients: SB 198 allows covered entities to charge patients more for 340B discounted drugs.

Although SB 198 limits the scope of covered entities, SB 198 allows some healthcare providers to buy discounted 340B drugs and then charge patients higher prices. SB 198 contains no patient protections or requirement that 340B program savings be passed on to patients. Ohio patients and employers are already losing out on \$275 million per year in lost rebates. This is a fundamental flaw in the bill: 340B savings should help lower costs for patients.

SB 198 increases health insurance costs by \$51 million for patients in Ohio.

Insured patients in Ohio are facing massive health insurance hikes in 2026 - a problem made worse by SB 198. According to a recent IQVIA analysis, Ohio employers and workers can expect insurance premiums to increase by an additional \$51 million per year if SB 198 is enacted.

SB 198 promotes out-of-state pharmacies – as far away as Hawaii.

Covered entities in Ohio are exploiting the 340B Program to expand pharmacy businesses out-of-state and in wealthy communities, where they can charge higher prices for prescriptions. More than half of 340B pharmacies supposedly serving poor and working families in Ohio are located in affluent neighborhoods. Ohio's low-income taxpayers are required to utilize for-profit pharmacies as far away as Hawaii.

To ensure the 340B program fulfills its mission, patient advocates are calling for state reforms that enhance accountability, mandate transparency, and guarantee protections for patients. Patients Rising supports enhanced 340B transparency, including the original language contained in this year's state budget. We support reforms to the 340B program that ensure funding supports patients in need.

We urge you to vote NO on SB 198 and instead support real reforms that protect patients, enhance transparency, and ensure accountability in healthcare.

Sincerely,

Terry Wilcox
Co-Founder & CEO
Patients Rising