



OHIO PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION

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May 5, 2025

Chairman Romanchuk, Vice-Chairman Huffman, Ranking Member Liston and members of the Ohio Senate Medicaid Committee,

I am David Burke and I serve as the Executive Director of the Ohio Pharmacists Association. As you begin working on our state budget, the Ohio Pharmacists Association (OPA) would like to ask you to maintain House provisions that finally set a fair and actuarial rate for medications and dispensing. Such actions have been upheld by the US Supreme Court in the 2020 Rutledge v. Pharmaceutical Care Management Association case and were also deemed to not be preempted by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA). Stopping the extinction of Ohio's pharmacies starts with payment transparency and uniformity. Without this provision, Ohio will continue to lose pharmacy access. This request is mirrored within Ohio Medicaid's current payment methodology. This has stabilized Ohio's pharmacy patient access within Medicaid and maintained the independent pharmacy market, which often is the only provided in areas of need and saved Ohio taxpayers \$140 million in the first two years of implementation.

Also, there has been discussion around removing the pharmacy benefit from Medicaid and returning it to the health plans. This would have a devastating impact on pharmacy access in Ohio and a negative impact on Ohio's budget of at least \$140 million, as per the SPB Program Review/Experience Analysis from April 9, 2025.

Finally, the Governor's version of the budget had a provision dealing with the 340B drug program. The House has removed that provision, but the issue remains unanswered. It is my understanding that a compromise that would allow Federal Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) to maintain contract pharmacies is on the table. This would help maintain patient access to care. OPA supports this compromise as we ask you to do the same.

Your time and attention to these matters is appreciated as your agenda is no doubt full. Please know I am at your service to answer questions on these or any pharmacy related topic.

Most Respectfully,

David E. Burke, R.Ph, MBA
Executive Director
Ohio Pharmacists Association