



**Representative Robert Cole Sprague
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Substitute House Bill 285
Sponsor Testimony
Senate Health and Human Services Committee
November 16, 2016

Chair Jones, Vice Chair Lehner, Ranking Member Tavares, and members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on Substitute House Bill 285. Substitute House Bill 285 will allow retail pharmacies to dispense 90-day supplies of certain medications. Dispensing 90-day supplies is a common practice in mail-order pharmacies.

With prescription drug costs on the rise, especially as an increased number of individuals are diagnosed with chronic conditions, it is important to give patients additional refill options for maintenance medications. Currently, there are barriers that prevent Ohio's retail pharmacies from filling prescriptions for extended periods of time. Specifically, pharmacists are prevented from using their professional judgement to dispense a 30-day prescription and additional refills at the same time. Under Substitute House Bill 285, if a prescriber writes their patient a prescription that has multiple 30-day refills, the pharmacist has the ability to dispense up to a 90-day supply with additional refills. Under the substitute version of the bill, the prescription must be for a maintenance medication that is taken on a regular, recurring basis to treat a chronic condition, and the patient must have used an initial 30-day supply or must have been previously prescribed a 90-day supply of the medication. In addition, the pharmacist must consult with the patient and determine that the medication is appropriate and has stabilized the condition. Substitute House Bill 285 also specifies that health plans and pharmacy benefit managers are not required to provide coverage for a medication that is inconsistent with a patient's benefit plan.

Giving individuals an opportunity to utilize a 90-day option will create savings through reimbursement, lower out of pocket costs, and improved health outcomes. Non-adherence to prescription drug regimens continues to drive up healthcare costs and can result in increased hospitalization, physician visits, and health issues. By minimizing multiple pharmacy visits, a 90-day option will promote increased drug regimen adherence and improve overall health outcomes.

Giving pharmacists the discretion to dispense multiple refills has been shown to be successful. As an example, in addition to the traditional 30-day fill and 90-day mail-order options, Navitus decided to cover a retail 90-day option. After 18 months, the pharmacy benefit manager had saved about \$43.34 million. Patients that still wanted to use traditional pharmacies were utilizing the 90-day option, and the pharmacy benefit manager saw significant savings. Furthermore, according to a study published in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' Medicare & Medicaid Research Review, allowing a 90-day option increases prescription regimen adherence. The study, which reviewed California Medicaid claims, followed 52,898 Medicaid recipients that were being treated with certain forms of maintenance medication. After comparing the 90-day group to the traditional 30-day group, regimen adherence was 20% higher and persistency, or not stopping medication for more than 30 days, was 23% higher. Moreover, the study showed that the 90-day group had increased savings.

Allowing pharmacists to dispense multiple refills will save money for pharmacies, patients, and payers. Substitute House Bill 285 will give retail pharmacies some of the same benefits that mail-order pharmacies currently have and will lower costs for patients that still wish to use retail pharmacies. This legislation does not apply to prescriptions for controlled substances or when a prescriber notes otherwise.

Thank you for your time. I'm happy to answer any questions that you may have.