



State Senator
TINA MAHARATH

3rd District

Sponsor Testimony
Senate Bill 20
Health, Human Services, & Medicaid Committee
Wednesday April 9, 2019

Chairman Burke, Vice-Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Health and Human Services Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 20. This bill requires a pharmacist who dispenses a drug containing a controlled substance in schedule II, III, IV, or V to distribute to the patient or patient's representative a chemical composition for use in disposing any unused portion of the drug. The chemical composition will deactivate or sequester the controlled substance.

This legislation is aimed at reducing the amount of unused opioids available to the patient and decreasing the likelihood of individuals developing an addiction. The Ohio Board of Pharmacy may adopt rules regarding the implementation of this provision.

Many Ohioans who suffer from opiate addiction first become addicted after being prescribed opioid medications to treat symptoms of pain. Often those with a history of substance abuse are prescribed opioids and are put in a situation where they must either take medication that is detrimental to their wellbeing or be forced to endure the pain to avoid becoming addicted or relapsing. In order to more effectively combat the opioid epidemic, we must better equip patients with the tools they need to make more informed decisions about their pain treatment and pain medications.

Studies show that sixty percent of people who abuse medications get them from family or friends. The Franklin County Public Health website advises, "When your medicines are no longer needed, they should be disposed of promptly. Consumers and caregivers should remove expired, unwanted, or unused medicines from their home as quickly as possible to help reduce the chance that others accidentally take or intentionally misuse the unneeded medicine, and to help reduce drugs from entering the environment."

This legislation provides the resources for citizens to promptly dispose of their prescriptions without leaving their homes to find a drug drop box or unsafely flushing, or disposing of the drug in the garbage.



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Although this is a small step in curbing Ohio's opioid epidemic, this legislation is designed to ensure people who are legally prescribed opioids have the safe and proper resources to dispose of these dangerous drugs so they are not just lying around their homes.

Chairman Burke and members of the Committee, I appreciate your attention to this issue and I respectfully request your favorable consideration and passage of Senate Bill 20. Thank you and I am happy to respond to questions from the committee.