



Chair Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, and Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee:

My name is Ted Buckley, and I am the head of government affairs and advocacy for Braeburn. Braeburn's primary mission is to fight the opioid addiction epidemic. The work we are doing can make a difference in the lives of patients who often shoulder the burden of treatment themselves. We aim to reduce stigma by raising awareness that opioid use disorder is a chronic brain disease best treated by evidence-based medication-assisted treatment.

Together with counseling and support, Braeburn's next generation medicines aim to support patients focusing on the reintegration of their lives with their families and communities. Braeburn's long-acting injectable regimens, which have been tentatively approved by the FDA, will be administered directly by healthcare professionals. Therefore, healthcare professionals and patients can maximize medication adherence to the prescribed treatment while potentially minimizing the risks of abuse, misuse and diversion.

I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to submit this letter in support of House Bill 341.

The opioid addiction crisis is particularly severe in Ohio:

- In 2018 there were 3,237 unintentional opioid overdose deaths in Ohio.<sup>1</sup>
- Across the United States, opioids accounted for nearly 70% of all overdose deaths in 2018.<sup>1</sup>
- The incidence of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome/Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome in Ohio increased from 20 cases per 10,000 live births in 2006 to 116 cases per 10,000 live births in 2018 – an almost six-fold increase.<sup>2</sup>

Braeburn believes in the "All of the Above" approach to policy matters with respect to the Opioid Addiction Crisis. By "All of the Above" we mean that we support policies that expand access to all types of Medication-Assisted treatment. It is critical that healthcare professionals and patients are able to access all FDA approved medications so that they can get the right treatment to the right patient at the right time.

I urge you to vote in favor of House Bill 341. House Bill 341 will help to eliminate barriers to treatment for Opioid Use Disorder that make it difficult for patients and providers to access the treatments that patients so desperately need. Allowing pharmacists to administer all of the long acting injectable medications that are approved by the FDA will allow more patients access to these treatments. These long acting treatments will never be in the hands of the patients, and as such they have the potential to minimize diversion, misuse and abuse.

This bill does not pick winners and losers. Rather, it puts all Medication-Assisted Treatments on the same level playing field. This level playing field allows the physician and patient to decide on the best treatment option for the patient. HB 341 allows the right medicine to get to the right patient at the right time.

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<sup>1</sup> See URL: <https://www.drugabuse.gov/opioid-summaries-by-state/ohio-opioid-involved-deaths-related-harms>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.drugabuse.gov/opioid-summaries-by-state/ohio-opioid-involved-deaths-related-harms>



Braeburn agrees with Dr. Nora Volkow, the Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, who said, “New formulations of these medications that can...improve compliance could be a real game-changer that could quickly make a dent in this crisis.”

In conclusion I ask you to vote in favor of House Bill 341.