



OHIO PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION

2674 Federated Blvd., Columbus, OH 43235 • Phone: (614) 389-3236 • Fax: (614) 389-4582

Proponent Testimony for HB 341

Antonio Ciaccia

Director of Government & Public Affairs, Ohio Pharmacists Association

Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee, my name is Antonio Ciaccia, Director of Government & Public Affairs for the Ohio Pharmacists Association (OPA). I thank you for the opportunity to provide our support for HB 341 and the strides it makes in increasing patient access to addiction treatment in Ohio.

I would like to thank Representative Tim Ginter for his tireless efforts to combat Ohio's opioid epidemic. HB 341 is just his latest work in this arena.

OPA is very supportive of the approach HB 341 is taking to build upon the work from the 131st General Assembly, which advanced legislation to empower pharmacists to administer certain forms of long-acting injectable medications to patients.

HB 341 will make positive strides in utilizing pharmacists to assist in the fight against addiction, growing the list of medications that a pharmacist can administer to a patient. Current law allows for trained pharmacists, acting under a physician protocol and via a valid prescription, to administer a number of long-acting injectable medications like antipsychotics, contraception, vitamin B12, progesterone, and opioid antagonists. HB 341 will simply grow the types of addiction medications from opioid antagonists to any approved long-acting injectable drug used for addiction treatment.

While we ultimately know a pharmacist can and should be able to administer the entire array of injectable medications – which is commensurate with their training as the medication experts – this slight tweak will ensure that new, innovative addiction treatment drugs aren't excluded from the pharmacist's scope, and thus create inconsistent patient access in the marketplace that could compromise adherence and sobriety.

As long-acting medications are crucial for patients with medication adherence concerns, OPA believes that with limited administration sites in Ohio – especially amid the COVID-19 pandemic – access barriers to these important drugs should be minimized, and utilizing pharmacists will help eliminate those barriers.

I thank you for your consideration. I am happy to offer the Ohio Pharmacists Association's support for HB 341, and I'd welcome any questions you may have.

Antonio Ciaccia

Ohio Pharmacists Association

aciaccia@ohiopharmacists.org