

March 28, 2022

The Honorable Thomas E. Brinkman, chair
The Honorable Brian E. Lampton, Vice-Chair
The Honorable Jessica E. Miranda, Ranking Member

The blind citizens of Ohio need H.B. 448 to have access to effective labeling of prescriptions and their accompanying extensive paperwork. I currently take Alendronate, the generic drug for Fosamax, due to my osteoporosis diagnosis. Without accessible labeling of this drug, I could not independently read or hear about the rare side effect of any surgery that might damage my jawbone. Of course accessible labeling would also inform me of the proper weekly dose of this medication. Safe labeling of the accompanying paperwork would also inform me about the best absorption of the calcium contained in Allendronate. I need to know independently whether it is best taken with or without food and which foods, if any, decrease its absorption.

Several years ago, after surgery to remove the right half of my thyroid, my doctor prescribed Synthroid to replace the hormones TSH, T3 and T4. Synthroid, too, is affected by proper absorption with or without food. My point here is that I had to stop taking Synthroid because my doctor told me that continuing on the medication and being over-replaced would detrimentally affect my bones. Again, accessible prescription labeling would have allowed me to ask questions of my doctor and pharmacist as to the best course of action with this drug.

I recently have been a patient with a local endocrinologist for continued monitoring of my thyroid function. Therefore, he prescribed that I take the radioactive iodine pill that allows for an ultrasound to evaluate thyroid activity. That pill is accompanied by very specific timelines of effectiveness and side effects. Again, I needed accessible prescriptive labeling for the drug. Please support the passing of H.B. 448 into law. Thank you.

Cordially,

Debra E. Baker, President, National Federation of the Blind, Springfield, Ohio
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