

February 25, 2022

Dear Chairman Brinkman, Vice Chairman Lampton, and Ranking Member Miranda:

Imagine yourself leaving your primary care physician's office with two samples of medication she has recommended you try. One is intended to adjust your blood pressure, the other to relieve indigestion. One is to be taken once a day; the other three times daily with food.

Now, imagine that you can't see to read the labels on these containers.

I, like many blind adults, live independently and would be asking myself that very question in the above scenario.

It's a simple thing. There are two bottles of pills, but if you can't see to read the printed labels, how do you make sure that you take them as directed?

Thousands of blind Ohioans manage their homes, raise children, run businesses, and perform leadership roles in churches and civic organization. We do these things by making simple adaptations and using various pieces of technology. Sometimes, we need legislation to make "doing the right thing" happen.

Thank you for accepting written testimony in favor of HB 448.

I am a Cincinnati constituent, having lived in Mt. Healthy and Hyde park, and spent frequent amounts of time in Columbus as a member, appointed by three consecutive governors, of various disability related councils. As a syndicated columnist and author, I have written extensively on the relationship between people with disabilities and the medical profession.

Sometimes, the simplest common sense solution can make the difference between equality and inequality, vulnerability and independence, and even life and death.

Thank you for your support of HB 448, and for the belief that blind people have the right to identify and administer their own medications.

Sincerely,

Deborah Kendrick

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