

February 21, 2022

Ohio House Insurance Committee,  
Proponent Testimony of HB448

Submitted by: Shirley Patterson  
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Dear Members of the Ohio House Insurance Committee.

Today I would like to submit my testimony in support of HB448. As a senior citizen, I currently receive my medication from Exact Care Pharmacy that does not support any audible or large print materials that is accessible for the blind. Although they separate my medication from day-to-night; there is nothing marked or audible that tells me the dosage, warnings nor information in case of an emergency. Having this accommodation is not only reasonable, but vital when taken a series of medications. It is my right to have such readily available data that will keep me healthy, safe and provide independence.

HB448 is very important to me; not only as a person with low vision, but also as a grandparent with small children in the home. I need to keep my grandchildren safe and follow primary care providers instructions for them as well. Because there are many types of prescription label accommodations available, it would be a great advancement for all pharmacies to incorporate such devices; ,such as ScripTalk that speaks all information on a pill bottle.

Finally, I have a relative who was diagnosed with a medical condition that led her into the emergency room. When she went to see her internal medicine doctor; he did not inform her to stop taking the medicine that was previously prescribed in the ER. Therefore, she was taking the same medication; essentially twice the dosage. Finally, she had to go to detox, due to this situation. Even though, she had vision, the affect would be the same with a blind person. This situation frightened me and made me much aware to ask relatives, pharmacists, friends and others who were available to read my labels on my pill bottles. But, I have to wait until someone comes over or get a ride to the corner drug store to find out what is on the bottle. If I had an accessible device to read my medications in the privacy of my home and independently, this would be a much better experience. I should not have to leave my home or be inconvenienced; nor disclose my privacy, just because Ohio pharmaceutical companies will not or ignorant to providing the blind with an opportunity to their rights of having a tool that will offer support, safety and independence when taking medications.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB448. Please pass this important piece of legislation for the blind of Ohio.