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**The MetroHealth System**  
**HB 6 – Interested Party Testimony**  
**House State and Local Government Committee**  
**February 10, 2021**

Chairman Wiggam, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, on behalf of The MetroHealth System (“MetroHealth”), I am pleased to offer testimony today as an interested party of House Bill 6. I would like to thank the sponsor of this bill, Representative Roemer, for bringing such important legislation forward to advance the role of pharmacists in helping to address the COVID-19 pandemic in Ohio. The advancement will help us more effectively serve our vulnerable patient population.

MetroHealth is a large, public safety-net provider located in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, which includes the City of Cleveland and its surrounding suburbs. MetroHealth is committed to improving the health of the community and reducing health disparities and health inequities. Our staff of 8,000 providers, including clinical pharmacists, provide care at MetroHealth’s four hospitals, four emergency departments, and more than 20 health centers and 40 additional sites throughout Cuyahoga County. The health system is also home to Cuyahoga County’s most experienced Level I Adult Trauma Center, verified since 1992, and Ohio’s only adult and pediatric trauma and burn center. In the past year, MetroHealth served 300,000 patients at more than 1.4 million outpatient visits in our hospitals and health centers. Three-quarters of those patients are either uninsured or covered by Medicare or Medicaid. In the spirit of living our mission, we provided \$220 million in community benefit last year in the form of free or subsidized care, community health improvement activities, education, and research.

MetroHealth is supportive of the provisions in the bill that would authorize an expanded role for pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and certification technicians to administer COVID-19 vaccinations and COVID-19 testing. The expanded role for pharmacists will allow for greater opportunities for our patients to get vaccinated and receive COVID-19 testing, as well as allow our public health system to better manage the pandemic. Additionally, better alignment between state/federal regulations and state law will help the healthcare community better navigate the post pandemic regulatory landscape.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for allowing us to provide written testimony today, and for all that the Committee is doing to keep Ohio safe during the pandemic. The MetroHealth System strongly supports expanded roles for pharmacists in the area of vaccinations and COVID-19 testing.