



OHIO PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION

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**Testimony for HB 345**

**Antonio Ciaccia**

**Director of Government & Public Affairs, Ohio Pharmacists Association**

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the House Health Committee, my name is Antonio Ciaccia, Director of Government & Public Affairs for the Ohio Pharmacists Association (OPA). I thank you for the opportunity to give our support for HB 345.

As an organization representing Ohio pharmacists from a variety of practice settings, our members know all too well some of the warped incentives that exist in the pharmaceutical marketplace. There are flaws across the pharmaceutical supply chain from start to finish, and if lawmakers and stakeholders want to see things like lower drug costs, increased therapy options, or even cures for certain diseases, significant time and energy should be taken to shed light on our current system and to make adjustments to the current incentives that exist in it.

While there are a myriad of changes that our members feel are necessary in order to have a system that works better for providers and patients alike, we believe that Rep. Butler is touching on one area that could benefit from some new incentives, and that is in the realm of cures research.

We believe many pharmaceutical companies invest significant resources into finding cures, but there is no disputing the fact that maintenance medications do receive a great deal of research focus. While that's not necessarily a bad thing – as many of these medications are vital to patients suffering from chronic illness – we believe that HB 345 could add increased financial enticements for the marketplace to invest even more in the treatments that could cure some of the most devastating diseases.

We urge increased dialogue on this issue, and thank Rep. Butler for his initiative.

Thank you for the opportunity to give our support, and I'll happily answer any questions you may have.

Antonio Ciaccia

Ohio Pharmacists Association

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