



Representative Thomas West, *49th House District*

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chairwoman Gavarone, Ranking Member Antonio, and fellow members of the House Health Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on House Bill 618.

House Bill 618 will require the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to develop a non-opioid directive form. This form will be made available to the public free of charge and is to be added to the patient's medical record per their request. The form states that the patient chooses not to be treated with an opioid analgesic.

The bill will also ensure that people who have completed treatment with a community addiction services provider are offered the form at their time of discharge. This also applies to those who have served a prison term for a drug offense.

The bill requires that the Director of Mental Health and Addiction Services adopt rules that create procedures to ensure that the non-opioid directive forms are properly filed in the patient's medical record and notify the State Board of Pharmacy of its existence.

This bill is to serve as a preventative measure to aid in the fight against the opioid crisis as Ohio continues to progress towards a solution.