

THE OHIO COUNCIL OF

# Retail Merchants

*The voice of retail since 1922*

## Executive Staff

Gordon M. Gough  
*President & CEO*

John C. Mahaney, Jr.  
*Vice Chairman*

Lora L. Miller  
*Director of Government Affairs  
& Public Relations*

Shaan Y. Carlson Woo  
*Director of Business Services*

Alex T. Boehnke  
*Manager of Public Affairs*

C. Luther Heckman  
*Special Counsel*

## Council Officers

Chairman – John C. Matesich, III  
*Chairman Emeritus  
Matesich Distributing Co.*

Vice Chairman – Ted Adams  
*Vice President – Government Affairs  
Lbrands*

Vice Chairman – Michael Broidy  
*Vice President – Corporate Affairs  
Schottenstein Stores Corp.*

Treasurer – H.M. O'Neill  
*Chairman  
O'Neill Enterprises*

Secretary – William Pfeiffer  
*Chairman – Chimney Rock Investments*

October 16, 2017

The Honorable David Burke, Chairman  
Ohio Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid Committee  
Statehouse  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Burke and Members of the Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid Committee:

On behalf of the Chain Drug Committee of the Ohio Council of Retail Merchants, I would like to express our support for Representative Merrin's Amended House Bill 101, otherwise known as the "Epinephrine Accessibility Act." Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts.

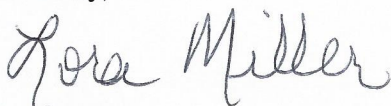
The law permitting pharmacists to substitute generically equivalent drugs in place of prescribed brand name drugs has saved patients, employers, government payers and health plans billions of dollars since first authorized. Without generic substitution, many patients would be unable to afford their needed prescription medications, many of which are life-saving.

Epinephrine is one of those life-saving prescription medications, helping to prevent death in the case of severe allergic reactions. Given the drastic increase in the price of the branded epinephrine auto-injector known as EpiPen, it is both logical and practical to permit pharmacists to substitute a much lower cost generically equivalent epinephrine auto-injector as long as the physician has not specified the branded product on the prescription and the patient authorizes the substitution. It was surprising to learn that current law does not allow such a substitution.

It also makes great sense to permit pharmacists to dispense epinephrine auto-injectors to those 18 years or older without a prescription as long as a proper protocol with a physician is in place. Auto-injectors contain a measured dose of epinephrine that is safely administered, saving countless lives when severe allergic reactions have occurred. Epinephrine is not addictive, is not a controlled substance and is not considered a drug of abuse. It should be widely available in public venues for emergency administration in cases of severe allergic reactions, stopping anaphylactic shock and possible death.

We appreciate your thoughtful consideration of and hopeful support for Amended House Bill 101 and we particularly appreciate Representative Merrin's sponsorship of this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Lora Miller  
Director of Governmental Affairs and Public Relations

## Council Affiliates

Ohio Association of Wholesaler-Distributors



Focus  
on Ohio's Future