November 19, 2019

Ohio Health Committee

Proponent Testimony, HB 214

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Chair Lipps, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member West, and Members of the Ohio House Health Committee:

I am in full support of this very important legislation. I encourage you to vote in the affirmative for it.

I have been blind all my life and have managed my medications independently. That was because I was never on many medications at one time or for the long term. As I am getting older, the number of medications is increasing, and their names can sound very similar.

I recently received a machine that will read the name of the medication, how and when to take it, how many refills remain, and possible side effects. I take my medications with total confidence using my Script Talk. I have also shown it to my nurse practitioner so she can share the information with other patients and other doctors in her practice.

I receive most of my medications through mail order and all these medications can be read by my machine. Recently, I had to pick up a medication at a pharmacy in Cincinnati and asked for the label. This is a national chain, but they cannot provide the labels locally, so I must depend on someone with sight to help me make sure it is the correct medication. The pharmacist was very apologetic and understood how important this would be to me. This is very frustrating and takes away my independence. It may also force me to share medical information with someone just to have a prescription read to me.

My sighted husband has multiple health conditions, also. At this time, he manages his medications independently, but he may need my assistance in the future. I will need all his medications marked with a label so I can read them, too.

Again, I encourage you to vote in support of this critical legislation so we can take our medications independently.

Thank you for reading my testimony and supporting this legislation.

Sincerely,

Marianne Denning