

THE OHIO COUNCIL OF

# *Retail Merchants*

*The voice of retail since 1922*

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January 21, 2020

The Honorable Scott Lipps, Chairman  
Ohio House Health Committee  
Statehouse  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Lipps and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Chain Drug Committee of the Ohio Council of Retail Merchants, I write to express our concerns with House Bill 214 in its current form. Thank you for the opportunity to do so.

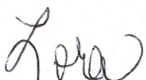
To date, one state, Nevada, has enacted legislation dealing with prescription readers for the visually impaired. Unlike House Bill 214 which mandates that pharmacies offer these devices to visually impaired patients for at least the duration of the prescription, the Nevada bill permits pharmacies to either provide the devices free of charge OR provide information on how to obtain such a device. The flexibility provided in the Nevada statute does not automatically create an unfunded mandate on pharmacies that are already grappling with below-cost payor reimbursements and de minimis dispensing fees.

Another state, Oregon, adopted a temporary rule requiring that pharmacies make these devices available to the visually impaired. Media coverage on the regulation reported that the Florida-based company that manufactures the most widely-used prescription reader estimated that it would cost pharmacies approximately \$400 per year to lease the equipment needed to dispense the labels, plus another \$2 per label applied to a prescription, with the readers themselves provided by the company at no cost. The labels are sold in quantities of \$250 at a cost of \$500 per roll. This does not include the cost of the software changes that would be required.

Our member companies that provide pharmacy services to their customers recognize the value of audible delivery of prescription directions and possible side effects to the visually impaired, particularly for those who have no caregiver to assist them. If the bill provided more flexibility to pharmacies such as is the case in Nevada, or if it permitted pharmacies to offer this service through a secure app or website, it is possible we could become supporters.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our concerns with House Bill 214 as introduced.

Sincerely,



Lora Miller  
Director of Governmental Affairs & Public Relations

Council Affiliates

 Ohio Association of Wholesaler-Distributors



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on Ohio's Future