



**Proponent Testimony on H.B. 214
House Health Committee**

Larry Benders, President & CEO, Cleveland Sight Center
John Mitchell, CEO, Cincinnati Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired

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Chairman Lipps, Vice-Chair Manning, Ranking Member Boyd and members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 214. The Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the Cleveland Sight Center are private, non-profit agencies that serve Ohioans that are blind or have significant vision loss.

Our mission is to empower individuals with visual impairments to achieve independence. Services provided by the Sight Centers include low vision screenings, orientation and mobility training, education and rehabilitative services, assistive technologies, counseling and recreation opportunities.

House Bill 214 would require a licensed terminal distributor of dangerous drugs to notify a purchaser of prescription drugs of the availability of a prescription drug reader and require that readers be available upon request. This bill would ensure that information already required by law in writing also be available audibly.

It is no secret that Ohio, like the rest of the nation, is facing an opioid addiction crisis. Making prescription drug readers available is a commonsense approach to increasing awareness for the potential side effects and cautions associated with dangerous drugs. This should be a priority for protecting individuals with visual impairments that are not able to read these warnings without assistance. Ensuring that this information is audibly available will be of immense value in providing reliable access to prescription instructions and information about drug interactions and contraindications for patients that are blind or have low vision

We ask for your support and expeditious approval of House Bill 214. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this legislation.