January 15, 2020

Ohio House Health Committee,

Proponent Testimony of HB 214

Submitted by: Regina Mason

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Dear Chair Lipps, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member west, and Members of the Ohio House Health Committee.

I would like to submit my testimony in support of HB214.

Currently, I am diagnosed with two eye diseases; Glaucoma and Cataracts. Although, at this time I have low vision along with using a magnifier; so I am able to read the labels on my prescriptions. However, my concern is that if and when my vision decreases, I will no longer have that ability.

Passing of the Accessibility Prescription Bill will enhance persons with blindness ability to comprehend, understand and take charge of their medications; especially if they take more than one. My pharmacy is Exact Care; which does not have a piece of technology to offer the blind equal access with print leaflets. Therefore, I am in support of this legislation to aid people like myself an opportunity to remain safe, healthy and obedient with their prescription regiment. Also, having a talking device would be a benefit for me as well; so I would not have to use my current vision as much.

In my opinion, I understand that the Americans With Disability Act states that people with disabilities must have equal access to communication. It is quite alarming that neighboring pharmacies do not provide equal opportunity for providing us of what they are giving us. For all we know, he/she could be administering a “placebo” to the blind and print disabled customer. This is why everyone must take charge of their well-being, health and livelihood. Having the ability to know what medications you are taking, its side-effects along with physicians’ contact information is important to one’s productivity, health and life.

Would you please pass this significant bill that will offer equivalent access for me and those who are blind in Ohio; as those who are living every day with this given right without any stipulations, restraints or difficulties Placed upon them.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB214.