January 16, 2020

Ohio House Health Committee,

Proponent Testimony of HB 214

Submitted by: William H. Turner

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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 this document as a testimony in support of HB214. It is important that we know which medicine to take, because many of us have to take several prescribed medications to maintain our lives. Like those with vision, we should have the right to ensure we are not administering the same medications daily. The side-effects of this, could be quite dangerous and harmful and result in added medical conditions and complications; or even hospitalization and potentially death.

Please support HB214 that would provide accessibility for the blind when taking medication / thus auditable and labels that have speech output is essential to our productivity and life expectancy. Today there are many types of talking devices available for the blind. Pharmacist and medical organizations have an opportunity to choose what is cost effective and manageable for their operations. However, we do not have a choice when we need the knowledge of information that provides prescribed instructions of side effects, dosage amounts and daily use for the blind and those with print disabilities.

I urge you to pass HB214, the Accessible Prescription Bill that will give the blind equal access to printed information located on medication bottles; no matter where they submit prescriptions.

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