



March 6, 2022

Ohio House of Representatives
Health Committee

Chair Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on H.B. 558. Our names are Monica Fullenkamp, Pharmacist and Carol Risaliti, Executive Director of Beacon Charitable Pharmacy in Canton, Ohio.

Beacon Charitable Pharmacy is a nonprofit central fill community pharmacy that currently serves Stark, Carroll, and Lorain counties. Beacon accepts donations from the Ohio Drug Repository and 95% of the more than 26,000 prescriptions filled last year were filled by using Drug Repository medications. Patients who have access to a pharmacy and their necessary prescription medications each and every month are more adherent in using the medications as prescribed by their physician, and interacts with a pharmacist thus optimizes health outcomes.

The passing of HB 558 will have impact on the health and wellness of many lives by permitting consumers to donate life sustaining and lifesaving medications that otherwise would be destroyed. These medications are especially important in assisting individuals with managing chronic disease such as diabetes, heart, hypertension, asthma and COPD. Residents of Ohio who are uninsured or underinsured, low to moderate income and do not have access to medications and pharmacy services are more likely to have increased emergency department visits, hospitalizations, frequent physician visits consequently this increases the cost of health care. Often individuals must choose between paying the rent, utilities, shoes for their children, food or use their limited consumable income for their medications. Many times, the medications being offered are 90-day supply from mail order pharmacies (PBMs) or a 90-day supply name brand medication from a drug manufacturer Patient Assistance Program (PAP).

Beacon, as do other charitable pharmacies in Ohio receive multiple calls each week asking us to accept their unopened donation of their medication that they no longer are prescribed or the medications of their loved one who have died. These residents of Ohio know clearly the expense of these medications and want to be respectful of the value they have not just monetarily but in specifically helping the less fortunate to receive medications they may otherwise go without. When it is a call or visit of a family member of the deceased it is more emotional and the plea is passionate as they want to do something "good, in the memory of their loved one". HB 558 is more than just allowing charitable pharmacies to receive end-user medications; It allows the community to reduce waste of a vital resource and help each other.

Chair Lipps and members of the committee, thank you again for the opportunity to submit this testimony. I would welcome any questions you might have.

Sincerely,



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Pharmacist



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