

Chairman Lipps and Members of the Ohio House Health Committee,

My name is Angie Gochenaur and I am the Director of Government Relations for Pear Therapeutics. Pear is a commercial-stage healthcare company pioneering a new class of software-based medicines, sometimes referred to as Prescription Digital Therapeutics (“PDTs”), which use software to treat diseases directly. Our vision is to advance healthcare through the widespread use of PDTs with an initial focus on supporting patients struggling with behavioral and mental health conditions. In particular, Pear’s reSET® and reSET- O® are the first mobile applications to be authorized to treat disease by the FDA. These products specifically treat Substance Use Disorder (“SUD”) and Opioid Use Disorder (“OUD”), respectively.

I want to thank the committee for discussing House Bill 688, which would create a pilot program for Prescription Digital Therapeutics in Ohio. Pear supports this effort to enable physicians to access all treatments available to combat opioid and substance use disorders.

During this last opportunity for testimony in the House Health Committee for HB 688, I wanted to share a few testimonials from patients who have utilized Reset or Reset-O in the state of Ohio.

The first patient at the point of the testimonial successfully had refrained from using Alcohol for 58 days, they stated:

“This app has helped me a lot with managing my negative thinking. Sometimes it is easier to blame something or someone else. This app has helped open my eyes to accountability. Now I am more aware of my negative thoughts and can be more positive. Something else that has really helped is the scenarios they show in the lesson. It is one thing to hear how to use a coping skill, but seeing it play out helped me.”

The second patient who offered comments on their experience with the app is in remission from Opioid use and Kratom use:

“I have made it part of my routine. Every Monday morning, I wake up and do my lessons for the week. The rewards are nice, but honestly, I do the lessons because they help me.”

And the last testimonial I would like to share with the committee comes from a patient who was reporting no stimulant use and reduced cannabis use in the past two weeks:

“Being alone in my home is a trigger for me. You know I have cut myself off from people. Using this app has helped me better share my feelings. Now my sister and I are planning a vacation together. It just took me to gain the courage to talk to her.”

This legislation would allow more patients to have access to treatments when they need it, 24/7 365 and puts them on the path to have experiences much like the patients referenced above. As you debate the bill for a vote we urge the committee to vote yes and make the investment in allowing patients of Ohio to have access to all available treatments as they work through recovery.