

May 25, 2021

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and members of the Ohio House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on HB 153.

UC Health Pharmacy Services serves patients throughout the academic health system including patients in hospital and outpatient settings. Pharmacy team members are dedicated to ensuring safe and effective, evidence-based pharmacotherapy as a part of our patient's treatment plan.

House Bill 153 supports UC Health's purpose to advance healing and reduce suffering by protecting patients from several health insurance practices that can limit the availability of the patient to access their needed medication during a policy plan year. When health plans conduct non-medical switching during a patient's plan year, patients can realize an increased cost for their prescriptions, or find that the medication that was prescribed by their doctor will no longer be covered under the health plan's pharmacy benefits. These actions limits a patient's access to care, and medical decisions are being decided by a health plan formulary instead of the medical direction provided to the patient.

House Bill 153 addresses this issue by prohibiting health plans from increasing a covered person's burden of cost-sharing with respect to a drug, move a drug to a more restrictive tier of a health benefit plan's formulary, removing a drug from a health benefit plan's formulary unless the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a statement about the drug calling into question the drug's clinical safety, if the drug manufacturer notified the FDA of a permanent discontinuance or interruption of the manufacture of a drug as required by federal law, or if the drug manufacturer has removed the drug from sale in the United States. House Bill 153 also prohibits a health insurer from limiting or reducing coverage of a drug with respect to a covered person in any way, including subjecting it to a prior authorization requirement.

UC Health greatly appreciates Representative Carruthers and Representative Liston's leadership on this important issue, and I would be more than happy to answer any questions the committee may have on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shelly Dusing Wiest', written in a cursive style.

Shelly Dusing Wiest
PharmD, BCPS, FASHP
Vice President, Pharmacy Services