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To: Health Provider Services Committee:

Re: proponent testimony for HB 73

I am a physician who has been practicing in the Ohio since 2011. I pride myself on taking an individual approach with each patient and working with each patient to develop a treatment plan that both the patient and I believe will be most beneficial for restoring and maintaining his or her health. Many times these treatment plans include supplements (administered orally or intravenously), herbs, homeopathic remedies, and possibly procedures such as acupuncture and chiropractic or other types of manual therapies. While I have not done much off-label prescribing of pharmaceuticals, it is good to know that drugs in conventional formularies are available for both conventionally recognized use and also off label use at times when that would be appropriate.

During the recent pandemic many governmental and private sector institutional policies regarding how sick people are treated were unconscionable. These actions included denying patients treatments considered beneficial by many individuals (for example use of ivermectin, hydroxychloroquine, inhaled budesonide, vitamin D, vitamin C, and more); as well as other actions forcing unwanted medicines and procedures on unwilling patients, sometimes resulting in deaths that might otherwise have been prevented (use of remdesivir, COVID-19 vaccines, and mechanical ventilation).

Additionally, during the pandemic people in hospitals and skilled nursing facilities were denied the company of family members, loved ones, and other support people. This is also unconscionable and should never have occurred.

HB 73, if passed into law, will prevent these types of ethical violations from occurring. It provides the structure for patients' needs to be met while admitted into hospital without compromising hospital based personnel in any way. It also protects physicians who wish to serve their patients in the best way by taking an individual approach (sometimes construed as promoting "misinformation").

I urge all legislators to support HB 73 and see it through to passage into law.

Sincerely,

Janet Levatin, MD

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