

Tina M. Wise, RPH - Written SUPPORT testimony for SubHB73: June 13, 2023

Chairman Cutrona, Vice Chair Gross, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the Health Provider Services Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide supporting testimony for SubHB 73, the Dave and Angie Patient and Health Provider Protection Act.

As an Ohio pharmacist with over 30 years of inpatient hospital experience, I feel this legislation is needed to protect the ability of individual prescribers and dispensers to provide patients with FDA-approved drugs for off-label uses (whether within an inpatient hospital setting or on an outpatient basis) without threat of retaliation from their licensing boards or institutions. It will also ensure the ability of patients to use their own home supply of medications if they are admitted to a hospital or a skilled nursing facility.

Throughout my career, I have dispensed numerous medications prescribed by physicians for off-label uses. This is common practice. What also is common practice is to allow an individual to continue to take a non-formulary home medication while the person is an inpatient in a hospital or other inhouse setting, as long as it is not contraindicated or being held for a particular reason. All that is required of a patient to do this is to have their home supply brought in and have the drug identified by a hospital/inhouse pharmacist. Again, this is nothing unusual or out-of-the-ordinary in the course of my every day duties.

However, in recent years, policies have emerged which prohibit the use of certain medications, not because they are contraindicated, not because they need to be held for a procedure, not even because it incurs an additional cost for a hospital, but simply because it is not part of a “standard protocol,” which unfortunately seems to be limiting the ability of prescribers to use their knowledge and experience and is placing profits ahead of individualized patient care. This is why Sub HB73 is so vital to protect a prescriber’s ability to freely prescribe drugs for off-label uses and to ensure a patient’s ability to take those medications, both as an outpatient and an inpatient.

Please pass the Dave and Angie Patient and Health Provider Protection Act and protect the medical freedom of health providers to prescribe, and likewise for patients to take, those medications to provide the best personalized care for an individual. Please Vote Yes on SubHB73. Thank you for your time.