



The Honorable Larry Obhof
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

133rd Ohio General Assembly: Senate Bill 303 – Pharmacist Consult Agreements

Dear Senate President Obhof,

My name is Michael Murphy and I am a pharmacist from Westerville, OH that works at The Ohio State University College of Pharmacy and practices within the ambulatory care clinics in The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center Division of General Internal Medicine. I am reaching out today to ask for your consideration in supporting Senate Bill 303 introduced by Senators Stephen Huffman and Nathan Manning.

In my practice, I work to manage the chronic and acute conditions of patients from diverse population. In order for my patients to reach their therapeutic goals they need services provided by members of their interdisciplinary team which includes the medication expertise of the pharmacist. My proudest moments are when I can congratulate a patient who I have been working with for months, often through weekly interactions to reach goals controlling their disease states. One of my fondest memories is the exchanging of a high-five with a patient whom I had been working with over the previous six months. His diabetes had rarely been controlled since he was diagnosed, often living with a hemoglobin A1c above 11, but through our efforts he had lowered his A1c below 7. This is just one example of many of the impact pharmacists can have on the health and wellbeing of our patients.

The current law (OAC 4729:1-6-02 Consult agreements) limits pharmacists' ability to collaborate with and support other members of the healthcare team by only allowing pharmacists to enter into consult agreements with physicians. SB 303 would permit physicians to allow their collaborating clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse-midwives, certified nurse practitioners, and physician assistants to enter into consult agreements with pharmacists for the purposes of chronic disease management. This will greatly increase efficiency of care, increase access to healthcare, and better leverage the pharmacist to provide care during the state of emergency and thereafter. The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy recently made an emergency rule change allowing this collaboration in institutional settings during the state of emergency.¹ SB 303 would expand upon this rule allowing for an increase in access to patient care regardless of where a patient receives their care and following the lifting of the state of emergency. Through the passage of SB 303, I believe the pharmacist will be more optimally leveraged to collaborate with other members of the healthcare team and provide care to patients across the state.

Thank you for your time, service to our state, and attention to this important issue. If there is anything, I can do to be of assistance regarding this or any pharmacy issue I would be happy to speak further by phone (614) 832-4168 or email murphy.981@osu.edu.

Sincerely,

E. Michael Murphy, PharmD

¹ The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy. Use of Certified Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Nurse Specialists, Certified Nurse Midwives, and Physician Assistants in the Management of Pharmacist Consult Agreements. April 9, 2020. Available at: <https://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/Documents/Pubs/Special/COVID19Resources/Use%20of%20Certified%20Nurse%20Practitioners,%20Clinical%20Nurse%20Specialists,%20Certified%20Nurse%20Midwives,%20and%20Physician%20Assistants%20in%20the%20Management%20of%20Pharmacist%20Consult%20Agreements.pdf>