



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Allow Pharmacists to Help Care for Ohioans

Interested Party Testimony
Ohio House State & Local Government Committee
House Bill 6

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As Submitted

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding House Bill 6 and Ohio's need for regulatory reform.

My name is Greg R. Lawson. I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, an independent research and educational institution—a think tank—whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

House Bill 6 cuts through some of Ohio's unnecessary regulatory red-tape and represents a commonsense approach to expanding testing and vaccination for COVID-19. As The Buckeye Institute **explained** during the early stages of the pandemic, pharmacists can play a pivotal role in this effort. By allowing pharmacists as well as pharmacy interns and technicians to order and administer the COVID-19 test, House Bill 6 will make testing more accessible across the state. An estimated **90 percent** of Americans live within two miles of a pharmacy, so by authorizing pharmacists to administer COVID-19 vaccines House Bill 6 makes pharmacies critical access points for coronavirus testing, prevention, and treatment—especially important for rural areas facing health care shortages.

House Bill 6 reinforces the state's testing and vaccination effort by allowing podiatrists to administer COVID-19 and influenza vaccines, and by letting those at least 17 years old and enrolled in a career technical school to register as pharmacist technician trainees. **Currently**, trainees must be at least 18 years old and have a high school diploma or GED. These measures will expand the pool of qualified testers and vaccinators, which will make Ohio's testing and vaccination roll-out faster.

Moving beyond the COVID-19 pandemic is essential for Ohio's long-term success. Doing so, while managing the risks of coronavirus mutations, requires an all-hands-on-deck approach to testing, infection tracking, treatments, vaccinations, and quarantines. House Bill 6 removes obstructive regulatory red-tape and helps those efforts.

The Buckeye Institute appreciates the opportunity to submit written testimony on this important issue.



About The Buckeye Institute

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution – a think tank – whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

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