



# THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

## **Empowering Pharmacists to Expand Access to Care**

Interested Party Testimony  
Ohio Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee  
House Bill 6

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As Submitted

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig, 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.

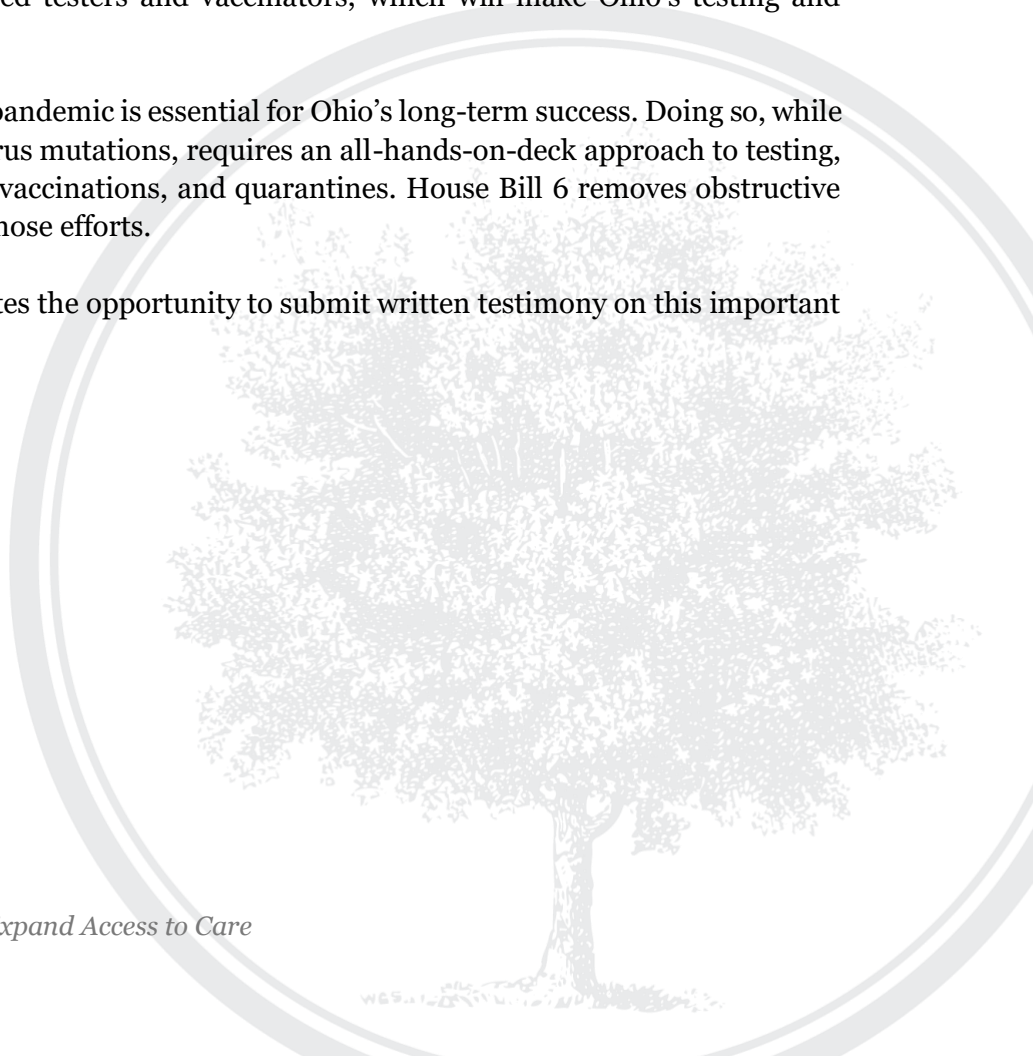
My name is Greg R. Lawson. I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, an independent research and educational institution—a think tank—whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

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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