

Testimony on HB 2538 by Representative Tom Sloan Creation of a Drug Repository System

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

HB 2538 is based on a simple concept—that when persons no longer need prescription medications, they should be able to donate the unopened package for use by other persons who might otherwise be unable to afford the medication. Similar laws have been passed in a handful of states and this bill is modeled on an Ohio statute.

The program created by **HB 2538** is voluntary—patients or their survivors may choose to donate the medications, or they may choose not to do so.

Hospitals, pharmacies, and non-profit clinics may choose to receive and dispense the donated medications, or they may choose not to participate. Please note, that all donated medications may subsequently only be dispensed through physician written prescriptions..

Why is this bill desired? When a person’s medical condition changes, too often unused medications are simply tossed into the trash can. The drugs remain viable, having already been paid for, and can help others without health insurance.

As an aside, Gail and I make periodic, anonymous cash donations to our local pharmacy to help pay for needed medication for elderly, less affluent customers. If the pharmacist also has the option of dispensing unopened, donated medications, customers benefit because the pharmacist’s “donations” and gifts like Gail’s and mine go farther. The program proposed in **HB 2538** will be in addition to donations made by pharmaceutical companies.

HB 2538 requires the Board of Pharmacy to establish the drug repository program and is, accordingly, provided rules and regulation authority.

Will many patients, or their survivors, participate? I do not know, but I believe that the program will succeed as the public becomes aware of the opportunity. .

Mr. Chairman, I suspect that other conferees will have proposed amendments to further clarify how a repository can best be established and operated. My goal in introducing **HB 2538** was, and remains, to avoid the waste of often very expensive medications when they can help alleviate pain in other patients. I support all proposed amendments that help us achieve that goal.

Thank you for your attention and consideration. I will be pleased to respond to questions.

