



LEGISLATIVE ALERT AND CALL TO ACTION

House Bill 253 (APN Schedule II Bill) is pending in the House of Representatives Health Committee. We are tentatively scheduled for additional hearings in the coming weeks.

The Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA) may oppose the bill. They (OSMA) raised a concern regarding APN's prescribing Schedule II medications outside of the hospital and long-term care settings. This represents a shift from our previous understanding regarding their position and would restrict the ability of APNs in clinical settings such as family health clinics, ambulatory clinics and private provider offices relative to prescribing Schedule II Controlled substances.

We need your help. We are asking APN's across the State to contact your collaborating physicians and other professional organizations to compose and mail letters to House Health Chairman John White to encourage his ongoing support of APN prescribing of schedule II controlled substances in all settings except retail facilities.

Alternatively, your collaborating physician is encouraged to contact Chairman White's legislative office (614) 466-6504 to communicate his/her support of House Bill 253.

Your letters should be addressed to State Representative John White and carbon copied at the same address to the following members of the House Health Committee.

The Honorable John White
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Lynn Wachtmann	Carol Schinde	Scott Oelslager	Tom Letson	Larry Flowers	Michael DeBose
Kenny Yuko	Jim Raussen	Shawn Webster	Bruce Goodwin	Fred Strahorn	Brian Williams
Jay Hottinger	Matt Huffman	Chris Redfern	Barbara Boyd	Lorraine Fende	Shannon Jones
Robert Hagan	Edna Brown	Joseph Uecker	Bob Otterman		

If you require a sample letter, please see below. If you need assistance with your communication, please contact either Jan Fuchs at fuchsj@ccf.org, Jacalyn Golden goldenj@ccf.org; Keeley Harding at keeleyaharding@aol.com or Lori Herf at lherf@bakerlaw.com. Thank you in advance for your effort.

(Insert Date), 2007

The Honorable First name Last Name

Ohio House of Representatives

77 S. High Street

Columbus, OH 43215

Representative (insert last name):

I am writing to support House Bill 253 sponsored by State Representative Scott Oelslager to enhance the advanced practice nurse's (APN's) ability to prescribe schedule II controlled substances.

As you may know, existing Ohio law allows advanced practice nurses who have obtained a certificate to prescribe, to prescribe schedule II-V drugs. However, APN's may only prescribe schedule II controlled substances to terminally ill patients for no longer than 24 hours and only when the collaborating physician has first initiated the medication. HB 253 would remove those restrictions and allow the Ohio Board of Nursing Committee of Prescriptive Governance to determine which schedule II controlled substances a qualifying APN may prescribe and under what circumstances an APN may prescribe those medications. This multi-disciplinary body is comprised of physicians, pharmacists and APN's and currently makes those determinations pertaining to all other scheduled and legend drugs.

Advanced practice nurses function in a variety of settings from inpatient to outpatient primary care settings, to the acute care hospital and ICU, to the home, hospice and extended care facility. Many of the conditions commonly treated by apns require management of moderate to severe pain. Schedule II drugs are important part of the treatment regime for these patients.

**DRAFT YOUR OWN EXAMPLES OF HOW APN PRESCRIBING OF SCHEDULE II
CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES IS IMPORTANT TO YOUR PRACTICE.**

We very much appreciate your consideration of HB 253 and hope that you will support this important legislation. Please feel free to contact me directly, should you have any questions or concerns pertaining to HB 253.

Sincerely,

(insert your name and phone number)