



SB 160 Proponent Testimony
Presented by Matthew Freado, MBA, PA-C
Past President and Government Affairs Chair
Ohio Association of Physician Assistants (OAPA)
Senate Financial Institutions, Insurance and Technology Committee
Chairman Steve Wilson
September 30, 2025

Chairman Wilson, Vice Chair Lang, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Senate Financial Institutions, Insurance and Technology Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 160, introduced by Senators Beth Liston and Terry Johnson.

The Ohio Association of Physician Assistants (OAPA) is pleased to join the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA) to support this legislation, prohibiting insurers from making mid-year drug formulary changes.

OAPA's mission is to promote quality, accessible, and cost-effective patient care in Ohio. As a leader of OAPA and a practicing PA, I have witnessed firsthand how harmful abrupt formulary changes can be. Patients and providers plan care expecting stability and continuity, yet mid-year coverage changes undermine that foundation. Physicians, physician assistants, and other providers must then divert time away from direct care, causing delays in appointments, prescription fills, and continuity of treatment.

For patients, the impact is even greater. A medication that has been working well may suddenly be removed from coverage or shifted to a higher-cost tier. This can force patients to switch to less effective alternatives, endure new side effects, or face worsened health outcomes. In some cases, patients stop taking their medications altogether due to cost, risking complications and even hospitalization. For example, a patient with well-controlled epilepsy who suddenly loses coverage for their medication may face breakthrough seizures with life-altering consequences.

Mid-year formulary changes replace clinical judgment with unexpected, cost-driven decisions. This bill ensures that providers' medically necessary prescriptions are respected for the full duration of a patient's plan year.

SB 160 is a bipartisan, common-sense reform that will protect Ohio patients from unpredictable, harmful changes to their care. It will also allow providers to confidently plan patient care, ensuring consistency, safety, and affordability.

On behalf of Ohio's physician assistants, I urge you to advance SB 160 and safeguard patients across our state by prohibiting mid-year formulary changes. Thank you for your time and consideration.