

HB 190 – Proponent Testimony on the Cure Bill February 3rd, 2021

Chair Nelson, Vice Chair Pierucci, and Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee, thank you for this opportunity to offer proponent testimony for HB 190, commonly known as the Cure Bill.

I have had the pleasure over the last five years to work on the Cure Bill in Ohio, where I helped it pass in July of 2019. I have also been working towards championing it across the nation with former Speaker Pro Tempore Jim Butler of the Ohio House of Representatives. Working on the Cure Bill has been without a doubt the greatest mission during my time at the Ohio House of Representatives. It is ideas like this that make me proud to be a public servant.

A multistate compact is one of the best and oldest methods for states to work together in order to solve complex problems. There currently exist dozens of different compacts related to a variety of issues such as insurance and licensure. You might even say that the Federal Government is a unique multistate compact. The Cure Bill would create a new multistate compact that would allow the states to pull together to create a new incentive to help spur the development and invention of new cures for major diseases. This is achieved by promising as an incentive award the first five years of savings that the compacting states would see if a disease is cured. The Compact will further coordinate with banks to underwrite the award and help develop further criteria for what is a cure. At the very least a cure must work in under a year and must be approved by the FDA. Should a company or individual develop a cure and claim the incentive award, the Compact can then turn around and work with a contract manufacturer to mass produce and distribute the cure for relative pennies compared to current prices. This will help make sure everyone, from rich to poor, gets the cure as quickly as possible and will also help the States realize savings rapidly.

In Ohio, when considering new policy we often hear that 20, 30, or even 40 states have already passed similar measures. Even then it can take multiple terms for us to follow suit. Rarely are we given the opportunity to lead the way, especially on an idea such as this where there is no cost/appropriation or risk to taxpayers and a great opportunity to save lives. The compacting states never pay anything unless a cure is actually developed and proven, and even then the States only ever pay what they actually save in their budget as a result of the cure being widely available. Additionally, it is possible that the compacting states might even realize their saving sooner as noncompeting states pay a royalty equal to their five year savings that will go to pay bank interest and offset the required payments from the compacting states.

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This compact has the opportunity to not only save States millions of dollars but more importantly it has the chance to save millions of lives and improve the standard of living around the world. This is the kind of innovative government that is needed for the Twenty-First Century. Your state now has the great chance to be one of the founding members and help lead the way forward. Being a founding member has great benefits as you will be on the ground floor as the Compact drafts rules, picks the initial diseases to target, gets possible cures at manufacturing cost, and has the chance to pay nothing as royalties offset any potential required payments. In closing, there is little to lose but everything to gain.

Thank you once again for allowing me the opportunity to submit testimony and for your consideration of the Cure Bill. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me should you have any questions.