



February 7, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of BioOhio, our Board of Trustees, and our nearly 300 members that employ over 100,000 Ohioans in the bioscience industry, I am writing to share our support for Promoting Readiness and Ensuring Proper Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient Reserves of Essential Medicines (PREPARE) Act of 2021 (S. 2740). BioOhio is the only statewide organization representing the bioscience industry, from Ohio's largest employers to emerging start-ups, schools and universities, and research institutions.

The COVID-19 pandemic shed enormous light on the vulnerabilities of the United States' supply chain, which is extremely dependent on other countries, especially certain aspects of our medical supply chain. The United States is a world leader in drug development and discovery, and considerable manufacturing capacity, particularly for innovative medicines. However, we still rely on China and India for most of the active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) that are essential to create generic prescription drugs, which make up 90% of all prescriptions filled in the United States. This overreliance on concentrated foreign generic API production could be detrimental to patients who rely on life-saving drugs should a major supply chain malfunction occur. Building out a domestic supply of the APIs necessary for essential generic medicines, with a preference for domestic manufacturers and contractors, is a necessary step to ensure the needed supply and quality of medication for patients.

Ohio's bioscience industry has a strong history of innovation and discovery, with over 4,260 organizations manufacturing & distributing products, providing essential services, or researching the next breakthrough at more than 5,120 facilities in the state. Investments in advanced manufacturing technologies could enable U.S.-based pharmaceutical manufacturing which could ensure a stable supply of drugs critical to the health of U.S. patients. This is not just a benefit for Ohioans but for the nation.

BioOhio's top priority supporting and promoting initiatives which improve and save the lives of patients while creating a stronger economy in Ohio. We support the PREPARE Act because it will do just that. A stronger domestic supply chain builds the much-needed capacity we need to serve our patient population but also creates jobs for Ohioans and Americans alike. We would like to thank Senators Brown and Cassidy for introducing this important piece of legislation. If you have any questions or would like any further information, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eddie Pauline". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Eddie Pauline
President & CEO