

Pharmacists Improving the Health of Our Communities

HB5462 – Representative Anna Moeller

Background: Pharmacists are a valued member of the healthcare team and data shows that there is a need for pharmacist-provided patient care services. The potential impact of implementing programs that provide coverage for these services is great, improving health equity, and access to care. Public Act 103-0001 established a foundation of recognizing the public's trust in allowing pharmacists to be able to assess a patient's condition by ordering COVID and influenza testing, ordering COVID and influenza vaccines, and ordering most COVID treatments when appropriate. Pharmacists have the knowledge, skills, and proven trust to help improve the health in our communities. HB5462 will enable pharmacists to be able to expedite access to qualified and timely care.

HB5462 will:

- **Advance ability for assessment and care options** for influenza, streptococcus pharyngitis, lice, skin conditions (e.g. ringworm and athlete's foot), respiratory syncytial virus, and other health conditions identified by a statewide public health emergency.
- **Enable pharmacists to utilize professional and clinical judgement** to adapt an existing prescription when the action is intended to optimize the therapeutic outcome of treatment.

QUALIFIED

Pharmacists are Highly Qualified Healthcare Providers



6+ YEARS

Courses focused on pharmacotherapy, patient education, disease management, and clinical decision-making.



LICENSURE

Pharmacists take the North America Pharmacist Licensure Exam (NAPLEX) & Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination (MPJE).



ADDITIONAL EDUCATION

Many pharmacists complete Post-Graduate Residencies, Fellowships, and/or Board Certification in specialty areas.

As of 2004, all pharmacy school graduates earn the PharmD degree...a doctorate degree to reflect the increased complexity of pharmacotherapy and advanced training required for adequate provision of patient care.

Pharmacists are the Most Accessible Healthcare Professionals

ACCESSIBLE

12,430
Pharmacists
in Illinois¹

89%

Americans live within 5 miles
of a community pharmacy²

Annually, Americans visit
their pharmacy
35 times
vs. 4 times
at their primary care
provider.³

Number of pharmacies is
15% higher
than number of
provider's offices
in communities where more than
30% of households live in poverty.⁴

PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT



Approximately 50% of all adults in the U.S. have one or more chronic disease conditions⁶



Chronic conditions account for over 85% of total U.S. health care costs⁷



Saved for every \$1 spent on pharmacist service.⁸

COVID-19

From February 2020 - November 2022, pharmacists in the U.S. provided more than



COVID-19 tests⁹



COVID-19 Vaccinations⁹

Engaging Pharmacists & Their Teams

Expanding the number of pharmacies with test-and-treat sites in medically underserved areas could increase access to COVID-19 treatment



INFLUENZA

Illinois pharmacists are providing flu shots

TWICE
the hours offered for giving immunizations vs. provider's offices¹²

2022 Flu Season
Pharmacies have given **18.7 Million** flu shots

vs
10.7 Million given at provider's offices¹¹



States now authorize pharmacists to directly prescribe antivirals based on a positive flu test.¹³

OPIOID CRISIS

80,000 Americans died from an opioid overdose in 2021.¹⁴

221

average deaths per day¹⁵

46

States, including Illinois, authorize pharmacists to administer naloxone to patients.¹⁶

Naloxone access laws that grant pharmacists direct authority to prescribe are associated with significant reductions in fatal overdoses.

HIV

Pharmacists have been identified by the CDC as key professionals in achieving one of the CDC's goals of ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S. by preventing HIV infection.

States authorize pharmacists to directly prescribe PrEP.¹⁷

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States authorize pharmacists to directly prescribe PEP.¹⁷



This information was developed through a collaboration between NASPA and APhA, with generous support from the Community Pharmacy Foundation.



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