

THE OHIO COUNCIL OF

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December 11, 2018

The Honorable Bill Blessing, Chairman
House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee
Statehouse
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Blessing and members of the Committee:

I write today on behalf of the members of the Ohio Chain Drug Committee in support of Senate Bill 265 to recognize pharmacists as health care providers under Ohio law.

Unlike many health care practitioners, pharmacists are not recognized as providers in the Ohio Revised Code for purposes of contracting with health insurers or Medicaid and receiving reimbursement for health care services they are authorized to provide. As a result, their services are under-utilized. Pharmacists have extensive education and training that equip them to provide many services in addition to their role in providing patients with access to and information about their prescription medications. These services include:

- Health tests and screenings
- Management of chronic conditions and related medications
- Immunization screening and administration
- Point-of-care testing (e.g. flu, strep)
- Transition of care services

As our healthcare system continues to evolve, a prevailing issue is the adequacy of access to affordable, quality healthcare. Many Ohioans lack adequate access to primary healthcare services, and this problem is only expected to get worse. According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, by 2020, the United States will face a shortage of more than 91,000 doctors. Pharmacists are uniquely positioned to help address this anticipated shortage by playing a greater role in the delivery of healthcare services in collaboration with other health care team providers. Passage of Senate Bill 265 will help ensure that this collaboration occurs.

Thank you in advance for your support of Senate Bill 265.

Sincerely,



Lora Miller
Director of Governmental Affairs & Public Relations