

**Testimony in Support of
SB133 AN ACT CONCERNING REGULATION OF
PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND RELATED PROFESSIONS**

Feb 20, 2024

Sen. Maroney, Rep. D'Agostino, Sen. Fonfara, Rep. Brown, Sen. Cicarella, Rep. Rutigliano, and Members of the General Law Committee:

The Connecticut Pharmacists Association and the Connecticut Society of Health-System Pharmacists together represent some 6,000 community and institutional pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and student pharmacists in every practice setting.

Pharmacy technicians are vital members of the healthcare team. They work closely with a pharmacist to ensure the health and safety of their patients. They locate, dispense, pack, and label a prescribed medication for a patient. They also help pharmacists with administrative tasks such as processing insurance claims, tracking inventory, and filing paperwork. Like pharmacists, pharmacy technicians can practice in a specialty industry like academia, community, or government, or in a specialty area like critical care, oncology, or pediatrics.

SB133 builds upon the training and experience of Connecticut's to create an Advanced Pharmacy Technician (APT) license endorsement, which will enhance and optimize patient care services delivered at all pharmacies, including administrative and supportive tasks for pharmacist-provided patient care services, and allow pharmacists to more effectively and efficiently provide for patients' medication-related needs.

Among many other benefits to patients and practitioners, advanced pharmacy technician endorsement will support

- Product Verification: Product verification has the potential to reallocate pharmacist time spent dispensing medications to performing patient care services. A study in pharmacies in Iowa illustrated that pharmacy technicians are as accurate as pharmacists when performing final product verification. Both pharmacists and technicians recorded accuracy rates of over 99%, suggesting uncompromised patient safety when technician product verification is implemented in community pharmacies. In addition, pharmacist time spent performing patient care services increased by approximately 19%. Patient care services were defined as but not limited to medication reviews, medication synchronization appointments with patients, and medication therapy management. Evidence shows that pharmacy

technicians are equally or more accurate than pharmacists when performing medication product verification. Utilizing technicians for medication product verification may save pharmacist time, further optimizing patient care. Evidence supports the safe and effective implementation of technician product verification in pharmacies.

- Pharmacist Time Reallocation for Advanced Patient Care Roles: Appropriately trained and experienced advanced pharmacy technicians can assume administrative tasks, and some clinical tasks, when appropriately delegated to do so by a pharmacist. A two-part study determined the appropriateness and proportion of work at Veterans Affairs anticoagulation clinics that could be shifted from pharmacists to pharmacy technicians. The results of the study indicated that trained pharmacy technician can help free up pharmacist hours to spend time with more complex patients in an anticoagulation clinic setting.
- Technician Job Satisfaction: In the past few months an enormous amount of attention has been given to pharmacy-related job satisfaction. Many pharmacy technicians are more satisfied with their professional work when they can assist with administrative and supportive tasks such as immunization, product verification, and medication therapy management. Additionally, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, demand for pharmacy technicians will grow 12% through 2028, to over 30,000 new jobs. On average, pharmacy technicians earn an annual salary of \$32,700 with top earners making over \$47,000 per year. APT endorsement will offer pharmacy technicians a clear and compelling career ladder with the potential of progressive economic and professional development.

As with many of the recent revisions to Connecticut pharmacy law, the elements of SB133 are neither novel nor untested. Forms of advanced pharmacy technician capabilities have been in place in state law across the US for some 40 years. Further, SB133 puts in place robust training, testing, and quality assurance controls designed to protect patients.

We support the passage of SB133 and encourage the committee to support it, as well.