



January 13, 2022

The Honorable Brad Barrett
Chair, Public Health House Standing Committee
200 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Representative Barrett:

On behalf of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), we would like to express our support of House Bill 1158 and request for the bill to be scheduled for a hearing by your committee. We are especially supportive of sections 12, 13, and 51 which allows for the reimbursement of services provided by pharmacists by Indiana Medicaid and private health plans.

APhA is the largest association of pharmacists in the United States advancing the entire pharmacy profession. APhA represents pharmacists in all practice settings, including community pharmacies, hospitals, long-term care facilities, specialty pharmacies, community health centers, physician offices, ambulatory clinics, managed care organizations, hospice settings, and government facilities. Our members strive to improve medication use, advance patient care and enhance public health. In Indiana, APhA represents pharmacists and students that practice in numerous settings and provide care to many of your beneficiaries. As the voice of pharmacy, APhA leads the profession and equips members for their role as the medication expert in team-based, patient-centered care. APhA inspires, innovates, and creates opportunities for members and pharmacists worldwide to optimize medication use and health for all.

Realigning financial incentives in our health care system to allow for health plan reimbursement under the medical benefit of services provided by pharmacists has long been one of the top priorities for the profession. This is to ensure patients have more time with their most accessible health care professional and to better align the role of the pharmacist with their extensive education and training. To the benefit of this realignment substantial published literature documents the significant improvement to patient outcomes¹ and reduction in health care expenditures² when pharmacists are more optimally leveraged. The inclusion of this language in HB1158 and if eventually signed into law would result in Indiana joining other states, such as, Ohio, Colorado, California, and Wisconsin as national leaders in empowering the pharmacist to better provide valuable services to their communities. In states where such legislation has

¹ Giberson S, Yoder S, Lee MP. Improving Patient and Health System Outcomes through Advanced Pharmacy Practice. A Report to the U.S. Surgeon General. Office of the Chief Pharmacist. U.S. Public Health Service. Dec 2011. Available at: https://www.accp.com/docs/positions/misc/improving_patient_and_health_system_outcomes.pdf

² Murphy EM, Rodis, JR, Mann HJ. Three ways to advocate for the economic value of the pharmacist in health care. Journal of the American Pharmacists Association. August 2020. Available at: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1544319120303927>

already been implemented, we are observing health plans, notably Medicaid Managed Care Organizations recognizing the value of the pharmacist and investing in the services they provide.³

As you may be aware, many of our community pharmacies, especially those in rural communities⁴, are closing as a result of the unsustainable reimbursement model in the drug supply chain. This often hits Mom-and-Pop independent pharmacies the hardest and can cause the elimination of a needed healthcare professional and cornerstone of our communities. The inclusion of language which allows for the reimbursement of services provided by pharmacists by Indiana Medicaid and private health plans in HB1158 opens up additional revenue opportunities for these pharmacists to maintain their practice and the provision of valuable services to our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration of supporting HB1158. If there is anything APhA can do to support HB1158, please don't hesitate to contact E. Michael Murphy, PharmD APhA Advisor for State Government Affairs by email at mmurphy@aphanet.org.

Sincerely,



Ilisa BG Bernstein, PharmD, JD, FAPhA

Senior Vice President, Pharmacy Practice and Government Affairs
American Pharmacists Association

³ CareSource Launches Pharmacist Provider Status Pilot. Published August 4, 2020. Available at <https://www.caresource.com/newsroom/press-releases/caresource-launches-pharmacist-provider-status-pilot/>

⁴ Hawryluk M. Large parts of rural America are becoming drugstore deserts. These small towns found an escape. *The Washington Post*. Published December 15, 2021. Available at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2021/12/03/drugstore-desserts-rural-america/>