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While Pilot Projects (SB 373) sound enlightened and well-intended, are they really needed to provide more efficient pharmacy? Prescription medication is behind the counter because it can cause harm if used incorrectly. So the question becomes is Safety being sacrificed for Efficiency.

National Quality Forum estimates medication error related to prescription use, administration and dispensing results in:

3.8 million Inpatient admissions

3.3 million Outpatient visits

7,000 Deaths per Year.

Lack of efficiency in Pharmacy practice is caused by many issues such as; rebilling a single prescription for a patient to several payers. To address this issue building kiosks outside the "Pharmacy Box" so that patients can get pricing from third parties by themselves. Patients like to have control over their medical spending. Allowing them to see the copayment being transmitted back to them personally would provide them with peace. This solution does not require a pilot project. It requires a company to provide a billing kiosk for patient use that would honor HIPPA.

Most community Pharmacies have 4 phone lines and 3 patient care windows for 1 Pharmacist and 1-2 technicians to handle. In addition they are responsible for computer entry, counting, labeling and billing prescription medication also patient counseling and safety. Many issues require a Pharmacist to resolve, due to expertise and work experience.

LARA has 4 pharmacist and 2 technicians to cover the whole state of Michigan. To accomplish anything more than a minimal review of pilot project data will tax limited resources which may not provide sufficient public safety.