

June 3, 2013

**MICHIGAN PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION
TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
HOUSE HEALTH POLICY COMMITTEE**

Madam Chairman and members of the House Health Policy Committee, my name is Karen Jonas. I am the director of governmental affairs with the Michigan Pharmacists Association and also one of the many licensed pharmacists practicing in this state. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today in support of Senate Bill 92. Michigan Pharmacists Association represents the nearly 14,000 pharmacists and 15,000 pharmacy technicians in Michigan, supporting our members as the professionals responsible for the delivery of patient-focused care.

Michigan is one of only five states in the country that does not regulate pharmacy technicians either by requiring licensure or registration. Senate Bill 92 recommends licensure of pharmacy technicians and certification. This legislation does not propose to add a new Board under the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, but would rather add pharmacy technicians as a subfield under the current Board of Pharmacy. The legislation does not address any expansion of scopes of practice for pharmacy technicians, but instead defines the roles of a pharmacy technician with the pharmacist still retaining ultimate responsibility for all actions within the pharmacy.

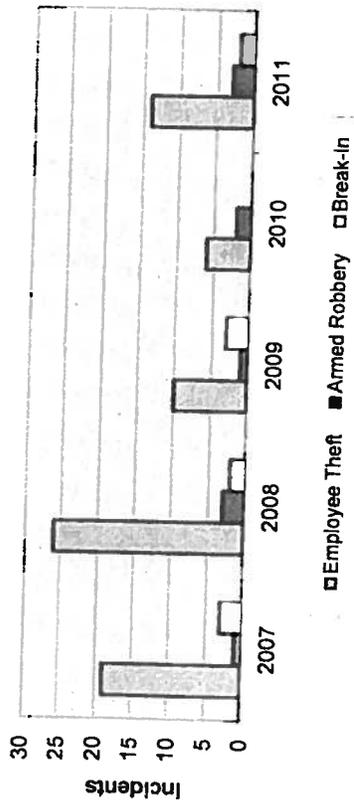
Licensure of pharmacy technicians and a mechanism for ensuring minimal competency for individuals employed as pharmacy technicians was a recommendation of the Controlled Substance Advisory Commission Annual Report back in 2007 as a means to minimize and avoid drug loss and diversion in pharmacies occurring by unlicensed pharmacy technician staff. Information obtained from the Board of Pharmacy shows that 75 percent of reported loss or diversion of controlled substances was due to unlicensed individuals in pharmacies. Licensure will provide a mechanism to prevent individuals caught diverting controlled substances from one pharmacy from repeating this behavior at another pharmacy by allowing sanctions from the Board of Pharmacy.

Certification of pharmacy technicians is also an important part of this legislation, which helps provide a mechanism for ensuring minimal competency of individuals employed as pharmacy technicians. Senate Bill 92 includes language that addresses the passage of a national certification exam and training programs, psychometrically sound examination to certify this minimal competency, similar to the national board taken by pharmacists, or board examinations required of other health care professionals. Pharmacy technicians can be trained in a variety of areas, by community college programs or by employers, similar to how pharmacists can be educated by various universities, but passage of a national examination guarantees that all technicians have the same minimal proficiencies. Additional provisions are included to allow Board of Pharmacy-approved employer training exams.

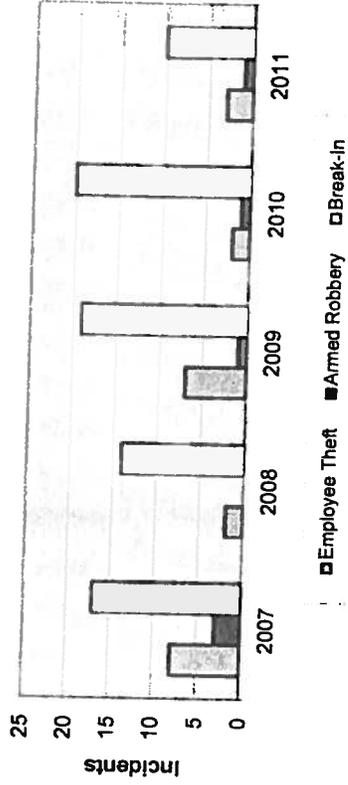
Licensure and certification of pharmacy technicians will help ensure that individuals who are highly engaged in the preparation of medications for dispensing have the proper knowledge to ensure that safety and quality standards are met and help prevent theft and diversion of controlled substance medications.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony today, and I urge your support for Senate Bill 92.

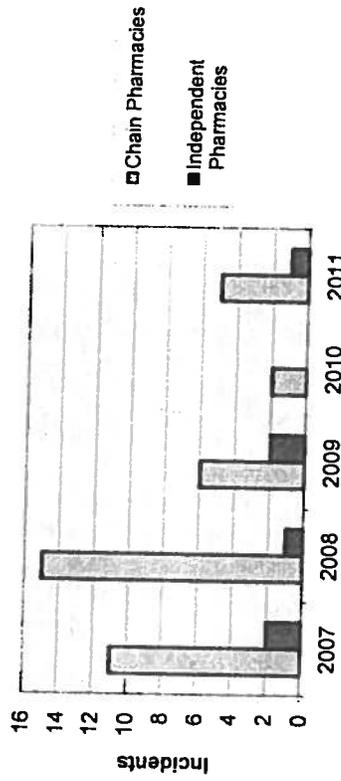
Chain Pharmacies 2007-2011



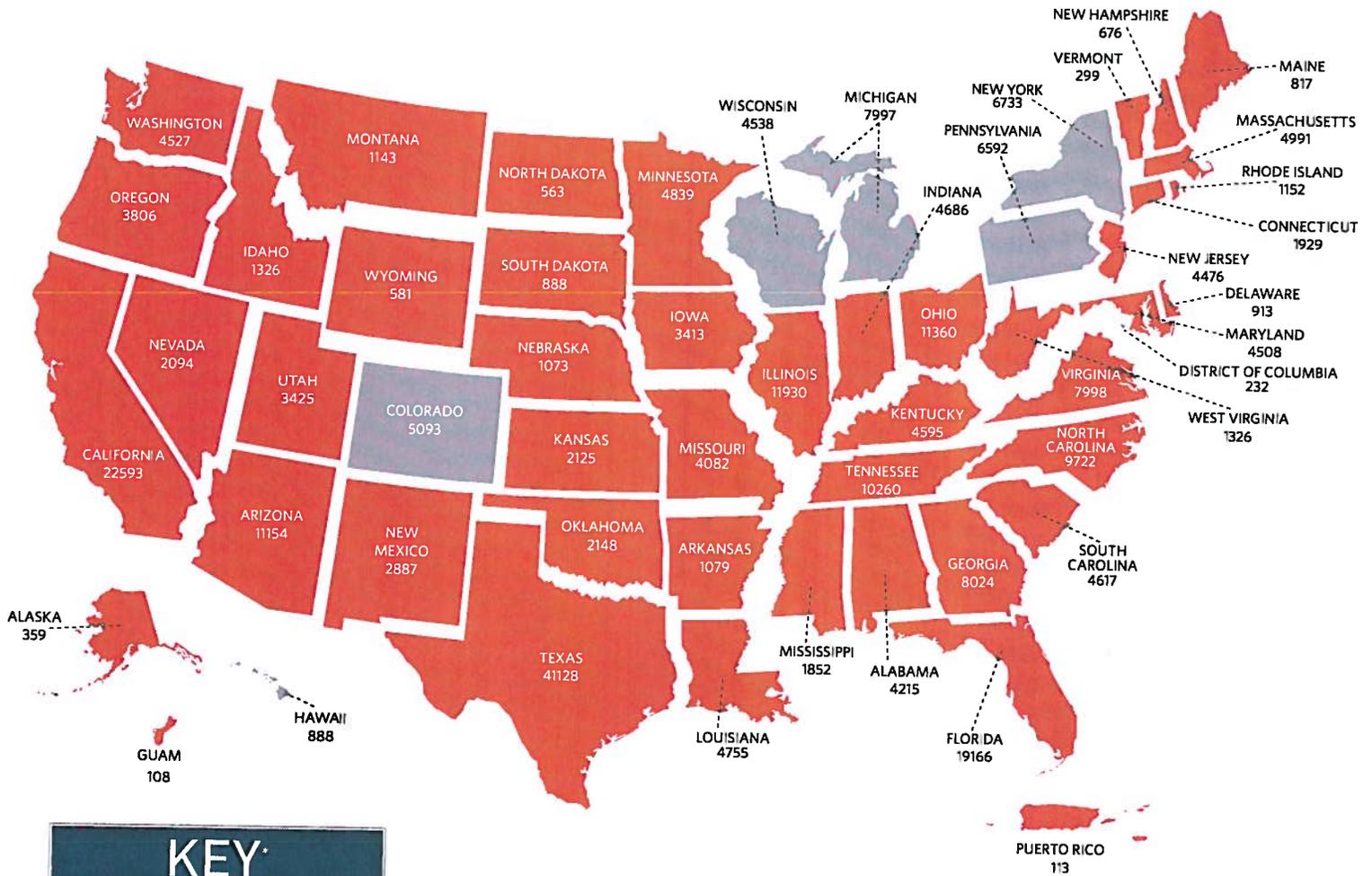
Independent Pharmacies 2007-2011



Pharmacy Technician Thefts 2007-2011



Active PTCB Certified Pharmacy Technicians



KEY

- States that regulate pharmacy technicians
- States that do not regulate pharmacy technicians

Figures are current as of December 31, 2012.

Since 1995, the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board has certified 484,039 pharmacy technicians through the exam and transfer process. This map represents the 271,794 pharmacy technicians currently active.

*Source: 2012 National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Survey of Pharmacy Law and independent research.



Pharmacy Technician Certification Board

**Michigan Pharmacy Technicians Demographic Survey Results
January 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012***

	Michigan Statistics
PTCB CPhTs Currently Active (as of 11/28/12) in Michigan	8,444
Primary Work Environment*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Chain: 20% • Community Independent: 10% • Hospital: 20% • Education and Training: 8% • Mail Service, home healthcare, long-term care, and managed healthcare: 7% • Military: 1% • Not a Pharmacy Technician: 34%
Primary Role in Practice Setting*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead Technician: 5% • Pharmacy Technician: 47% • Store Manager or Assistant Manager: 1% • Pharmacy Student: 8% • Technician in Training: 11% • Clinical Technician/ IV Technician: 1% • Other: 27%
Method of Training as a Pharmacy Technician*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education Institution (e.g. classroom instruction, vocational/technical school, community chain): 51% • Formal on the job training program developed and provided by employer: 21% • Informal on-job training provided by employer: 19% • Military training program: 1% • Other: 8%
Employer Recognizes CPhTs with Expanded Job Duties and/or Employment*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes: 31% • No: 17% • Unsure: 52%
Employer Recognizes CPhTs with Higher Pay Rates*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes: 28% • No: 19% • Unsure: 53%

*PTCE Candidate Self Report Data, January 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012



Emily Jerry foundation

2013 NATIONAL PHARMACY TECHNICIAN REGULATION SCORECARDS

