

March 14, 2013

**MICHIGAN PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION
TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE REGULATORY REFORM COMMITTEE**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Regulatory Reform Committee, my name is Karen Jonas, and I am a licensed pharmacist and the director of governmental affairs with the Michigan Pharmacists Association. 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. 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 under former Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm as a means to minimize and avoid drug loss and diversion in pharmacies. A report from the Commission showed that more than 90 percent of reported loss or diversion was due to unlicensed individuals having access to controlled substances in pharmacies. Licensure will provide a mechanism to check on complaints, allegations or actions by the Board of Pharmacy; currently, such a mechanism only exists for licensed pharmacists, but not for other individuals assisting with the delivery of medications to their patients.

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 requires the passage of a national, 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. With me today are two Board members of the Michigan Society of Pharmacy Technicians, Dori Kern and Angela Faszczewski, who will be providing additional testimony addressing specific patient safety issues.

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

Regulatory Oversight of Pharmacy Technicians

44 regulate pharmacy technicians

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming

18 require national certification

Arizona, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming

5 require and accept only the PTCB Exam in their states

Arizona, Louisiana, North Dakota, Texas, Wyoming

17 require a background check

Arkansas, California, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Wyoming

18 require continuing education

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming

5 have a pharmacy technician serving on their Board of Pharmacy

Alabama, Montana, North Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

However...

7 do not regulate pharmacy technicians

Colorado, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin

10 have pending legislation or regulations

Pharmacy Technician Certification Board

Updated: October 2012

*Contact Megan Coder for more detailed information at mcoder@ptcb.org.

State Pharmacy Technician Statutes and Regulations as of 10/11/2012 - DRAFT

	State regulates Pharmacy Techns	Techs licensed or registered	"Licensure" vs. "Registration"	Age	Required hours to become registered	Multiple categories of technicians exist	Board approved exam	PTCB is the only exam accepted	Option btwn cert exam OR education to register in state	Documented employer training required	Formal education required to register	Background check required	Continuing Education (CE) required	T-designated CE only accepted	Pharmacist-to-Tech ratios (NABP data)	Actual ratios in state regulations	Practice requirements vary with pharmacist-to-technician ratios	Remote technician supervision allowed	Tech-Check-Tech allowed	Pharmacy Tech on Board of Pharmacy	Pending legislation or regulation
AL	✓	✓	R	17						✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	1:3	✓	✓	✓	✓	R
AK	✓	✓	L	18						✓			✓	✓				✓			
AZ	✓	✓	L	18		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	1:2		✓			R
AR	✓	✓	R						✓	✓		✓			✓	1:2					BD
CA	✓	✓	L			✓			✓			✓			✓	1:2		✓	✓		
CO															✓	1:3	✓				
CT	✓	✓	R/C							✓					✓	1:2	✓	✓			
DE	✓			18		✓				✓											
DC																					L
FL	✓	✓	R						✓			✓			✓	1:1					
GA	✓	✓	R	17							✓	✓			✓	1:3	✓				
HI																					
ID	✓	✓	R	18		✓	✓			✓		✓			✓	1:6		✓	✓		
IL	✓	✓	R	18		✓	✓			✓								✓	✓		
IN	✓	✓	C	18		✓			✓			✓			✓	1:6			✓		
IA	✓	✓	R			✓	✓												✓		
KS	✓	✓	R							✓					✓	1:2	✓	✓	✓		BD
KY	✓	✓	R	16																	
LA	✓	✓	C	18	600	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	1:2	✓	✓			
ME	✓	✓	R						✓			✓			✓	1:3		✓			BD
MD	✓	✓	R			✓	✓				✓	✓	✓						✓		
MA	✓	✓	R	18		✓	✓			✓					✓	1:4	✓		✓		L
MI																					
MN	✓	✓	R	18					✓	✓			✓		✓	1:2		✓	✓		
MS	✓	✓	R				✓				✓	✓			✓	1:2					
MO	✓	✓	R								✓	✓									BD
MT	✓	✓	L	18		✓	✓			✓			✓		✓	1:3		✓	✓	✓	
NE	✓	✓	R	18											✓	1:2					BD

	State regulates Pharmacy Techs	Techs licensed or registered	"Licensure" vs. "Registration"	Age	Required hours to become registered	Multiple categories of technicians exist	Board-approved exam required	PTCB is the only exam accepted	Option btwn cert exam OR education to register in state	Documented employer training required	Formal education required to register	Background check required	Continuing Education (CE) required	T-designated CE only accepted	Pharmacist-to-Tech ratios (NABP data)	Actual ratios in state regulations	Practice requirements vary with pharmacist-to-technician ratios	Remote technician supervision allowed	Tech-Check-Tech allowed	Pharmacy Tech on Board of Pharmacy	Pending legislation or regulation
NV	✓	✓	R	18	✓	✓			✓		✓		✓		1:1			✓			R
NH	✓	✓	R	18					✓	✓											L/R
NJ	✓	✓	R	18	✓	✓						✓			1:2		✓				L
NM	✓	✓	C			✓	✓			✓			✓		1:4			✓			
NY																					L
NC	✓	✓	R							✓					1:2		✓				
ND	✓	✓	L			✓	✓			✓	✓				1:3/4			✓			
OH	✓		Q	18			✓			✓											
OK	✓	✓	P							✓											
OR	✓	✓	C	18		✓	✓			✓		✓			1:2			✓			R
PA										✓											L
RI	✓	✓	L	18		✓				✓	✓										BD
SC	✓	✓	C		1,000		✓			✓	✓		✓		1:3			✓			
SD	✓	✓	R			✓	✓			✓	✓				1:2		✓				
TN	✓	✓	R			✓					✓	✓			1:2		✓				
TX	✓	✓	R			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓			1:2		✓				
UT	✓	✓	L			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓						✓			
VT	✓	✓	R																		
VA	✓	✓	R			✓			✓				✓		1:4						
WA	✓	✓	C				✓				✓		✓		1:3				✓		
WV	✓	✓	R			✓				✓					1:4						
WI																					
WY	✓	✓	L	18		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓		1:4			✓			BD
	44	42		21	2	23	19	5	5	23	12	17	18	2	34		11	18	17	5	17

Information is based upon internal research; technician ratios column is based upon NABP's 2012 Survey of Pharmacy Law
Pharmacy technicians should contact their State Board of Pharmacy to ensure they meet state regulatory requirements.
Information on updates statutes and regulations is appreciated. Please send updates to mcoder@ptcb.org.



**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*