



February 20, 2025

The Honorable Elaine H. Marzola  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor  
Nevada State Assembly  
2920 North Green Valley Parkway, Suite 219  
Henderson, NV 89014-0407

**AB 186 Revises provisions governing pharmacists – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Marzola, Vice Chair Jauregui, and members of the Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor:

The American Pharmacists Association (APhA) writes in support of [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 186](#) (Assemblymember Orentlicher). AB 186 makes several updates to better align the pharmacist's role with their extensive education and training. It ensures that patients will continue to have accessible health care services delivered by their trusted local pharmacist.

AB 186 better aligns the pharmacists' role with their education and training by allowing pharmacists to order laboratory tests and furnish medications to facilitate the care of their patients. Pharmacists currently have authority in Nevada due to Declarations under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act to test and treat for COVID-19. Nevada pharmacists have been testing and treating for COVID-19 since September 2021, when the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued the ninth amendment under the PREP Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID-19. This amendment authorized pharmacists to order and administer FDA-authorized, approved, or licensed subcutaneous, intramuscular, or oral COVID-19 therapeutics.<sup>1</sup> As beneficial as this temporary federal authority has been in expanding access to care and relieving some of the burden on an overstressed health care system, it will expire on December 31, 2029.<sup>2</sup> AB 186 makes this temporary federal authority permanent under pharmacists' state scope of practice to minimize interruptions to patient access to valuable services provided by pharmacists to meet Nevadans' public health needs.

AB 186 aligns pharmacists' scope of practice with many states where patients can receive accessible treatment for health conditions that have been previously diagnosed, are self-limiting, are diagnosed after performing a test that is waived under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) of 1988,

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<sup>1</sup> Ninth Amendment to Declaration Under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID-19. Available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/09/14/2021-19790/ninth-amendment-to-declaration-under-the-public-readiness-and-emergency-preparedness-act-for-medical>.

<sup>2</sup> 12th Amendment to Declaration Under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID-19. Available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/12/11/2024-29108/12th-amendment-to-declaration-under-the-public-readiness-and-emergency-preparedness-act-for-medical>.

or in the professional judgment of the pharmacist, are emergencies that threaten the health of the patient. Pharmacists can test and treat for varying health conditions in 14 states<sup>3</sup> via a statewide protocol, standing order, or independent prescriptive authority.

Substantial published literature documents the proven and significant improvement in patient outcomes<sup>4</sup> and reduction in healthcare expenditures<sup>5</sup> when pharmacists are optimally leveraged as the medication experts on patient-care teams. AB 186 ensures that Nevadans maintain access to services they have already been receiving from pharmacists for years and better aligns the pharmacists' role with their extensive education and training.

For these reasons, APhA strongly supports AB 186 and respectfully requests your "AYE" vote. If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact E. Michael Murphy, PharmD, MBA, APhA Senior Advisor for State Government Affairs, by email at [mmurphy@aphanet.org](mailto:mmurphy@aphanet.org).

Sincerely,



Michael Baxter  
Vice President, Government Affairs  
American Pharmacists Association

cc: Assemblymember Sandra Jauregui, Vice Chair  
Assemblymember Natha Anderson  
Assemblymember Max Carter  
Assemblymember Brittney Miller  
Assemblymember Daniele Monroe-Moreno  
Assemblymember Erica Roth  
Assemblymember Selena Torres-Fossett  
Assemblymember Steve Yeager  
Assemblymember Lisa Cole  
Assemblymember Melissa Hardy  
Assemblymember Heidi Kasama  
Assemblymember PK O'Neill  
Assemblymember Toby Yurek  
Assemblymember David Orentlicher  
Ken Kunke, PharmD, Executive Director. Nevada Pharmacy Alliance

**About APhA:** 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

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<sup>3</sup> Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Tennessee, Virginia

<sup>4</sup> 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](https://www.accp.com/docs/positions/misc/improving_patient_and_health_system_outcomes.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> 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>

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 Nevada, with 2,520 licensed pharmacists and 4,480 pharmacy technicians, APhA represents pharmacists, students, and pharmacy technicians that practice in numerous settings and provide care to many of your constituents.** 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.