

YOUR CARE COALITION

Expanding Access THROUGH Pharmacy Services

Oklahoma Senate
2300 N Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Chair Rosino and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

As you address Oklahoma's healthcare challenges, you have a unique opportunity to support innovative, patient-centered solutions that enhance access for all Oklahomans, including those in our rural communities who often face long distances and limited care options.

Your Care Coalition, an alliance of leading health associations and companies including Abbott, the American Pharmacists' Association (APhA), the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS), Walgreens, and Walmart - is committed to improving healthcare access statewide. On behalf of the Your Care Coalition, in partnership with the Oklahoma Pharmacists Association, we strongly urge your support for Senate Bill 741.

SB 741, sponsored by Senator Todd Gollihare, modernizes pharmacy practice by allowing pharmacists to test, screen, and initiate drug therapy for minor, nonchronic conditions. Under strict clinical guidelines, "Test and Treat" services enable pharmacists to offer timely, evidence-based care for common conditions such as the flu or strep throat. This approach is especially beneficial in rural areas where primary care resources are scarce, reducing barriers to care and long wait times.

Rural Oklahoma, where over 70% of residents live within 15 miles of a preferred pharmacy, stands to benefit significantly from this legislation. Local pharmacists are already trusted advisors in their communities. By expanding their ability to provide direct care for common health conditions, SB 741 ensures that rural residents can access timely and affordable healthcare without the need for long drives or costly emergency room visits. With rural Oklahomans facing higher healthcare challenges, this policy offers a practical and effective solution to improving healthcare equity and access.

Moreover, adopting SB 741 will strengthen community pharmacies, which are vital lifelines in rural Oklahoma. These pharmacies not only provide critical healthcare services but also support local economies by protecting jobs and bolstering the vitality of small-town communities.

Oklahoma pharmacists are uniquely positioned to expand access, with extended hours and convenient locations throughout the state. By supporting SB 741, you empower these trusted professionals to fill critical gaps in our healthcare system and ensure that every Oklahoman, regardless of where they live, receives the care they deserve.

Sincerely,

Your Care Coalition

In partnership with:

