

YOUR CARE COALITION

Expanding Access THROUGH Pharmacy Services

Dear Members of the Arizona State House of Representatives,

Your Care Coalition (YCC) is writing to express strong support for SB 1214 and clarify misconceptions recently circulated by the American Osteopathic Association and the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association regarding SB 1214. We fully support the implementation of test-and-treat protocols that empower pharmacists to provide safe, evidence-based care for common conditions—including strep throat—while maintaining strong referral systems to ensure continuity of care.

Let's be clear: SB 1214 does not authorize pharmacists to act as physicians. It enables highly trained healthcare professionals to deliver fast, safe care within established clinical guidelines that ensure patients are treated or referred appropriately.

Addressing Key Concerns:

1. Training adequately prepares pharmacists for test-and-treat protocols.

Pharmacists are highly trained healthcare professionals with a doctorate-level education which includes clinical therapeutics, diagnostics using point-of-care tests (such as rapid strep tests), and patient counseling. SB 1214 builds on their existing role—allowing pharmacists to follow standardized protocols approved by public health authorities.

Importantly, strep throat is an example of a condition that is well-suited for pharmacist-led test-and-treat care. Pharmacists use a CLIA-waived rapid antigen detection test (RADT) to confirm strep within minutes. These tests are highly accurate—with a specificity of over 95%—and results are used in conjunction with CDC-backed protocols that guide treatment or referral if needed.

2. This is about healthcare access—not replacing doctors.

Pharmacist test-and-treat programs improve access to timely care. In many parts of Arizona, especially rural communities, patients face long wait times or lack access to a regular provider. These services help bridge that gap—ensuring patients with straightforward symptoms don't have to turn to crowded ERs for care. They are not meant to replace primary care but rather to complement it.

3. Patient safety is central.

Pharmacist-led test-and-treat protocols are developed in collaboration with public health experts and grounded in evidence. These protocols have been successfully implemented in multiple states with no indication of harm. Pharmacists are trained to recognize symptoms that fall outside protocol boundaries and to refer patients when appropriate. The goal is always safe, timely, appropriate care.

4. Misrepresenting scope only fuels confusion.

SB 1214 does not grant diagnostic privileges. It grants permission to use approved protocols under a test-and-treat model—as pharmacists already do in many states across the country, including Idaho, Illinois, and Florida, with great success.

We urge lawmakers to support this common-sense, pro-access, and pro-public health legislation. Arizona families deserve options for timely, affordable care—especially when the alternative is a crowded ER or no care at all.

Sincerely,

Your Care Coalition



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In collaboration with:

