



January 30, 2025

The Honorable Todd Huston
Speaker of the House
Indiana House of Representatives
200 W Washington St
Indianapolis, IN 46204

The Honorable Rodric Bray
President Pro Tempore
Indiana Senate
200 W Washington St
Indianapolis, IN 46204

SB 145 Pharmacy matters – SUPPORT

Dear Speaker Huston, President Pro Tempore Bray, and members of the Indiana General Assembly:

The American Pharmacists Association (APhA) writes in support of [Senate Bill \(SB\) 145](#) (Senator Busch). SB 145 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 healthcare services delivered by their trusted, local pharmacist.

SB 145 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 Indiana due to Declarations under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act to test and treat for COVID-19. Indiana 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.¹ As beneficial as this temporary federal authority has been in expanding access to care and relieving some of the burden on an overstressed healthcare system, this authority is set to expire on December 31, 2029.² SB 145 makes this temporary federal authority permanent under pharmacists' state scope of practice to minimize interruptions to patient access to valuable services provided by pharmacists and ensure Indiana can meet Hoosiers' public health needs.

In addition to COVID-19, SB 145 aligns pharmacists' scope of practice with many states where patients can receive accessible treatment for influenza, respiratory syncytial virus, strep throat, lice, minor skin conditions, and other emerging or existing public health threats. Pharmacists can test and treat for varying

¹ 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>.

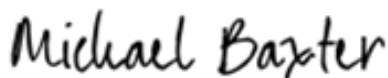
² 12th Amendment to Declaration Under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act for Medical Countermeasures Against COVID-19. Available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/12/11/2024-29108/12th-amendment-to-declaration-under-the-public-readiness-and-emergency-preparedness-act-for-medical>.

health conditions in 14 states³ via a statewide protocol, standing order, or independent prescriptive authority.

Substantial published literature documents the proven and significant improvement in patient outcomes⁴ and reduction in healthcare expenditures⁵ when pharmacists are optimally leveraged as the medication experts on patient-care teams. SB 145 ensures that Hoosiers' 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 SB 145 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.

Sincerely,



Michael Baxter
Vice President, Government Affairs
American Pharmacists Association

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 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 Indiana, with 6,530 licensed pharmacists and 10,490 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.

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

⁴ 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

⁵ 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>