



Vermont Association of Chain Drug Stores

To: Senator Jeanette White
Cc: Senate Committee on Government Operations
From: Vermont Association of Chain Drug Stores
Heather Shouldice, William Shouldice & Associates LLC
Date: February 26, 2020
Re: Pharmacy Prescribing

On behalf of the approximately 95 chain pharmacies operating in the State of Vermont, the Vermont Association of Chain Drugs Stores appreciates the opportunity to support the 2020 OPR bill, specifically “Pharmacy Prescribing”.

We applaud the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) for the initiative to modernize the statutory scope of pharmacy practice in community pharmacies. Current policies are needlessly restrictive, preventing community pharmacists from working at the top of their licenses.

As the demand for healthcare services continues to grow, pharmacists have expanded their role in healthcare delivery, partnering with physicians, nurses, and other healthcare providers to meet their patients’ needs. Innovative services provided by pharmacists do even more to improve patient healthcare quality of life.

In order to fully utilize pharmacists to the top of their license, VACDS strongly urges OPR to deploy the broadest practice model possible by recognizing the tremendous value of pharmacy care for the wellbeing of all Vermont residents.

Currently;

- 10 states allow pharmacists to initiate contraceptives without a collaborative practice agreement (CPA)
- 16 states have expanded pharmacist authority to provide patients with treatment based on the results of a CLIA-waived test for conditions such as influenza
- 12 states have statutes or regulations in place authorizing pharmacists to prescribe tobacco cessation aids without a CPA or local standing order

As you heard from Lauren Bode; Assistant Professor, Pharmacy Practice, Albany College of Pharmacy last week, Pharmacists are educated and trained to provide vaccinations, health education, disease-state testing, prescribing and assist with disease management.

Accordingly, we encourage your Committee to approve Sec 11; Pharmacist Prescribing this year.

