



March 7, 2023

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The Honorable Senator Judy Lee  
Chair, Human Services Committee  
1822 Brentwood Court  
West Fargo, ND 58078-4204

**RE: HB 1095 (Weisz) – Relating to the inclusion of comprehensive medication management services in health benefit plans – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Cleary, and members of the Human Services Committee:

The American Pharmacists Association (APhA) appreciates the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on [House Bill \(HB\) 1095](#) (Representative Weisz). HB 1095 will allow for the reimbursement of comprehensive medication management provided by pharmacists practicing within their scope of practice by health plans in the State. Realigning financial incentives in our health care system to allow for health plan reimbursement under the medical benefit of services provided by pharmacists ensures patients have more time with their most accessible health care professional, their pharmacist. It also properly aligns the current role of the pharmacist, with their extensive education and training, to practice at the top of their license.

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 North Dakota, with 1,100 licensed pharmacists and 790 pharmacy technicians, APhA represents the pharmacists, student pharmacists, 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.

We also support the submitted testimony from the North Dakota Pharmacists Association.

Substantial published literature clearly documents the proven and significant improvement to patient outcomes<sup>1</sup> and reduction in health care expenditures<sup>2</sup> when pharmacists are optimally leveraged as the medication experts on patient-care teams. The expansion of programs that increase patient access to health care services provided by their pharmacist in North Dakota is aligned with the growing trend of similar programs in other states, such as: California, Colorado, Idaho, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and others. In states where such programs have already been implemented, we are observing health plans recognizing the value of the pharmacist and investing in the services they provide in order to capitalize on the positive therapeutic and economic outcomes associated with pharmacist-provided care.<sup>3</sup>

As the most accessible healthcare professionals, pharmacists are a vital provider of care, especially for those living in underserved and remote communities. Patient access to pharmacist-provided care can address health inequities while reducing hospital admissions, increasing medication adherence, and decreasing overall healthcare expenditures by recognizing and covering the valuable health care services pharmacists provide, similar to North Dakota's recognition of many other health care providers.

The creation of programs that allow for the direct reimbursement of services provided by pharmacists through health plans opens additional revenue opportunities for these pharmacists to maintain their practice and provide valuable health care services that are necessary for many North Dakota communities. It is also important to note these programs are not expected to raise costs for health plans, as published literature has shown pharmacist-provided care results in cost savings and healthier patients.<sup>4,5</sup> This strong return on investment supports why many other states that have established comparable programs. For example, Oregon, identified in their fiscal

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<sup>1</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>2</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>

<sup>3</sup> CareSource Launches Pharmacist Provider Status Pilot. Published August 4, 2020. Available at <https://www.caresource.com/newsroom/press-releases/caresource-launches-pharmacist-provider-status-pilot/>

<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>

legislative analysis that the creation of a similar program would have “minimal expenditure impact on state or local government.”<sup>6</sup>

For these reasons, APhA strongly supports HB 1095 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 Advisor for State Government Affairs by email at [mmurphy@aphanet.org](mailto:mmurphy@aphanet.org).

Sincerely,



Michael Baxter  
Acting Head of Government Affairs  
American Pharmacists Association

cc: Senator Sean Cleary, Vice Chairman  
Senator David A. Clemens  
Senator Kathy Hogan  
Senator Kristin Roers  
Senator Kent Weston

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<sup>6</sup> FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION Measure: HB 2028 A. Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2015 Regular Session. Available at <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2015R1/Downloads/MeasureAnalysisDocument/28866>.