



February 22, 2021

Hon. Bart Rowland
Chair, House Committee on Banking and Insurance
702 Capitol Avenue
Annex Rm 416D
Frankfort, KY 40602

In Re: HB 48, AN ACT relating to reimbursement for pharmacist services.

Dear Chair Rowland:

The Kentucky Primary Care Association (KPCA) has a state-wide membership of Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), Rural Health Clinics, and other primary care providers in both rural and urban areas of the Commonwealth. FQHCs are required by their federal mandate to offer pharmacy services to their patients and many operate in-house pharmacies. Others contract with local and community pharmacies to dispense medications to their patients. These pharmacists are often in more frequent contact with patients than their primary care provider and are well equipped to offer a variety of services that would be reimbursed if performed by a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner. These services are extremely valuable in preventing and observing signs of serious conditions that would otherwise go undetected.

KPCA supports the passage of HB 48 sponsored by Representative Danny Bentley and many other distinguished members of the House. Passage of this bill would allow KPCA patients and countless others across the Commonwealth greater access to needed care.

HB 48 is, we believe, an important step in recognizing the valuable services pharmacists perform for their patients every day. These pharmacists are often in more frequent contact with patients than their primary care provider and are well equipped to offer a variety of services that would be reimbursed if performed by a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner. These services are extremely valuable in preventing and observing signs of serious conditions that would otherwise go undetected. Also, these patient encounters allow pharmacists to bridge care gaps with physicians and other providers, and thereby lowering healthcare costs. They are

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critical to ensuring vaccine administration for the COVID-19 pandemic, which will send our children back to school, workers back to jobs, and allowing our economy to recover.

In closing, I would say that it is time for Kentucky to allow pharmacists to be reimbursed for services they already provide within their scope of practice and to recognize the benefit they bring to their patients. The KPCA appreciates your attention to this important legislation before the Banking and Insurance Committee.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
David Bolt
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David Bolt, CEO
Kentucky Primary Care Association