



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CHAIN DRUG STORES

January 23, 2018

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

Re: Support SB 2231

Dear Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of our members providing pharmacy services to patients in the state of North Dakota, the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) is writing to convey our support for SB 2231. This legislation modifies the law allowing for pharmacists' limited prescription practices by authorizing pharmacists to initiate or modify drug therapy according to protocols established by a licensed physician or an advanced practice registered nurse, and removes some of the unnecessary administrative processes that collaborating clinicians and pharmacists must follow when limited prescriptive authority is delegated (i.e. eliminating the requirement for collaborating clinicians and pharmacists to submit a copy of any collaborative agreement to their respective licensing Boards for approval, which can lead to delays in the delivery of patient care.) We strongly support these changes and urge you to advance this important legislation.

Pharmacists are highly educated, trusted healthcare professionals who provide critical patient care services. In recent years, community pharmacists have played an increasingly important role in the care of patients, providing convenient, accessible, and cost-effective health services and working in partnership with healthcare entities and other providers to provide coordinated care and improve health outcomes. One way that pharmacists have worked to do this is through collaborative practice agreements and protocols wherein licensed physicians and other clinicians delegate authority to pharmacists to perform certain patient care activities, including the ability to initiate or modify certain types of drug therapy. These practices expand access to important health services for the public.

More and more states are modernizing their laws to promote access to this type of team-based care. Recently, the state of Colorado enacted legislation authorizing pharmacists to provide certain medications pursuant to specified protocols. Under this authority, Colorado pharmacists are now providing tobacco cessation medication and services as well as providing access to hormonal

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contraception at pharmacies. Similar initiatives have been successfully implemented in Idaho, Oregon, New Mexico, and California.

The services offered by community pharmacists through collaborative practice agreements and protocols deliver unsurpassed value, improving the health and wellness of patients while reducing health care costs. Studies have shown that pharmacist patient care services provided through collaborative practice agreements have improved patient outcomes for diabetes, hypertension, anticoagulation, and other chronic diseases.¹ These arrangements can also improve access to basic healthcare services for populations that may not otherwise visit physicians. Recognizing the important role that pharmacists play in filling gaps in care and access to different healthcare services, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently published a resource and implementation guide on *Advancing Team Based Care Through Collaborative Practice Agreements* to help facilitate uptake of this model of care.²

In light of the value of pharmacy services and how improving access to these services can serve important public health goals, we urge lawmakers to vote in support of SB 2231. We appreciate the opportunity to present the viewpoints of our members in North Dakota on this very important issue.

Sincerely,



Joel Kurzman
Director, State Government Affairs

¹ Snyder ME, Earl TR, Gilchrist S, Greenberg M, Heisler H, Revels M, et al. Collaborative Drug Therapy Management: Case Studies of Three Community-Based Models of Care. *Prev Chronic Dis* 2015;12:140504. DOI

² <https://www.cdc.gov/dhdsp/pubs/docs/CPA-Team-Based-Care.pdf>