



February 4, 2025

Senator Shawna Bolick
Chairman
Senate Regulatory Affairs and Government Efficiency
Committee
Arizona State Capitol Complex
1700 W Washington St
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Senator Frank Carroll
Vice-Chairman
Senate Regulatory Affairs and Government Efficiency
Committee
Arizona State Capitol Complex
1700 W Washington St
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Support for SB 1214 – Expand Public Access to Pharmacy Test-and-Treat Services

Dear Senator Bolick and Senator Carroll,

The National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) is writing in support of SB 1214 – important legislation supporting public access to routine healthcare services through community pharmacies. This bill will enhance healthcare options and capacity across the state by allowing pharmacists to offer basic testing and the initiation of treatment for common health conditions such as flu, strep throat, and other respiratory diseases – streamlining the process for people to receive convenient care.

Research on pharmacist-led “testing and treatment” demonstrates unequivocal patient safety, adherence to evidence-based guidelines, and cost-effectiveness.¹ Pharmacists’ education and clinical training prepare them well to perform basic patient assessments and implement evidence-based treatment. During the recent public health emergency, pharmacy interventions averted over 1 million deaths, over 8 million hospitalizations, and saved approximately \$450 billion in healthcare costs.² The accessible and convenient pharmacy experience has cemented Americans’ reliance on community pharmacies for “test and treat” services. States like Idaho, Alaska, and Colorado have already authorized the types of “test and treat” pharmacy services that would be allowed under SB 1214.

Importantly, the people of Arizona support the policies³ in SB 1214:

- **85%** of adults in Arizona say pharmacists are **easy to access**, the highest percentage of the tested options.
- **78%** of adults in Arizona believe it’s important for their state to update its policies to ensure that patients permanently have the same **access to pharmacy vaccination, testing, and treatment** services that were available during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **73%** of adults in Arizona support pharmacists **testing for and treating common illnesses** like flu and COVID; **70%** support testing for and treating common minor ailments such as strep throat.
- **71%** of adults in Arizona support private and government insurers **adequately paying pharmacists** for testing and initiating treatment in states where pharmacists are authorized to do so.

In summary, pharmacies remain a critical access point for many Americans to receive essential healthcare services – including across medically underserved areas, and among both rural and urban communities. Permanently authorizing pharmacy personnel to deliver “test and treat” services for flu, strep, and other respiratory conditions

¹ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31474527/>

<https://www.ajmc.com/view/cost-effectiveness-of-pharmacist-provided-treatment-of-adult-pharyngitis>

² <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9387064/>

³ A poll commissioned by NACDS and conducted by Morning Consult, October 25-30, 2023. [NACDS Access Agenda](#).

through SB 1214 will offer additional options to receive care. **NACDS strongly urges your support to pass SB 1214 so that the people of Arizona have convenient access to care within their community.** If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact NACDS' Sandra Guckian, Vice President, State Pharmacy and Advocacy, at sguckian@nacds.org or 703-837-4195.

Sincerely,



Steven C. Anderson, FASAE, CAE, IOM
President and Chief Executive Officer
National Association of Chain Drug Stores

CC: Members of the Arizona Senate Regulatory Affairs and Government Efficiency Committee

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NACDS represents traditional drug stores, supermarkets and mass merchants with pharmacies. Chains operate nearly 40,000 pharmacies, and NACDS' chain member companies include regional chains, with a minimum of four stores, and national companies. Chains employ nearly 3 million individuals, including 155,000 pharmacists. They fill over 3 billion prescriptions yearly, and help patients use medicines correctly and safely, while offering innovative services that improve patient health and healthcare affordability. NACDS members also include more than 900 supplier partners and over 70 international members representing 21 countries. Please visit NACDS.org.