

HB 838/SB 562: State Board of Pharmacy - Prescriber-Pharmacist Agreements:
Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Health Committee:

I have received a copy of the Amended bill. I do not have a copy of the actual Amendment itself.

I'm unsure what the purpose was for adding a certified, licensed midwife to this bill. I admit that I did not have a chance to watch the hearing on this bill, as I have been writing testimony on a great number of bills this legislative session.

My concerns over this bill are focused on these facts:

Pharmacists do **not** receive the same depth or breadth of clinical training as licensed physicians. Physicians complete medical school, multi-year residencies, and extensive supervised clinical training focused on diagnosing complex conditions, managing co-morbidities, and addressing complications that may arise during treatment. **Treating opioid use disorder often requires comprehensive medical assessment, evaluation of mental health conditions, and ongoing clinical management that goes beyond medication dispensing.**

Opioid use disorder is a complex medical condition that frequently involves co-occurring psychiatric disorders, polysubstance use, and significant social and medical risk factors. Treatment decisions should be made by practitioners with full diagnostic authority and comprehensive medical training. Expanding treatment authority **without equivalent training** standards may create fragmented care and unintended risks for vulnerable patients.

Collaboration between physicians and pharmacists is vital when licensed physicians treat opioid use disorders and should continue to be encouraged. Expanding pharmacists' authority to treat patients blurs important professional boundaries and may compromise the continuity and quality of care that patients deserve.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **oppose SB 562/HB 838.**

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of my concerns regarding this bill.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals

