

2/18/2020

HB 692



A Network Of
Independently Owned
Pharmacies

Testimony offered on behalf of:
EPIC PHARMACIES, INC.

IN SUPPORT OF:
**HB 692 – Drugs and Devices – Electronic Prescriptions – Controlled
Dangerous Substances**

Health and Government Operations Committee
In the House - Hearing 2/18 at 1:00 p.m.

EPIC Pharmacies **SUPPORTS HB 692** – Drugs and Devices – Electronic Prescriptions – Controlled Dangerous Substances.

Last year some incorrect information was presented to the legislature that EPIC Pharmacies did not support the electronic prescribing bills because a lack of technological and computer adequacy by independent pharmacies. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

Our main concern in the past was regarding the protection of a patient's freedom of choice to choose the pharmacy provider of their choosing. There are anecdotal reports of prescribers intending to send a prescription to independent pharmacy A and the electronic claim gets rerouted to an electronic hub that sends the claim to chain pharmacy B. Page 8 Lines 30 & 31 as well as p. 9 line 1, protects a patient's right to choose their pharmacy provider of choice.

We also had concerns that predatory pharmacy auditors hired by Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBM's) might use language in this bill to try and claw back funds from pharmacies during an audit, if the pharmacy dispensed a controlled substance written or verbal prescription, pursuant to one of the exceptions in the bill allowing for written or verbal prescriptions. Page 10, lines 9-12 has protections in place to prevent the pharmacy and pharmacist from being responsible for when a prescriber chooses to exercise an exception.

EPIC Pharmacies respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE REPORT on HB 692.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Wiener, Pharmacist".

Stephen Wiener, Pharmacist
Epic PharmPAC Treasurer
Owner/ President
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