

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

Dear Health & Finance Committees:

I am writing to respectfully **oppose SB 562/HB 838**, concerning *State Board of Pharmacy – Prescriber-Pharmacist Agreements – Treatment of Opioid Use Disorders*.

Addressing opioid use disorder is a serious and urgent public health priority. However, **expanding the role of pharmacists to “treat” patients for opioid use disorder raises significant concerns regarding scope of practice, training, and patient safety.**

Pharmacists play an important and respected role in medication dispensing, counseling, and drug interaction oversight. However, they 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 valuable and should continue to be encouraged. However, expanding pharmacists’ authority to treat patients blurs important professional distinctions 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.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals