

Madison hearing for 1/25

Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden, and members of the committee, for the record, my name is Chawn Bosisto and I am a Certified Pharmacy technician in OR/WA including Nationally certified. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on SB 410.

I have been a technician for 27 years. I first started out as a pharmacy clerk at my place of employment. During that time they had a in-house pharmacy technician class to teach you math and the laws that applied to pharmacy in the state of WA. Once I accomplished the required hours and passed the Wa board of pharmacy test I was able to obtain my technician license. Later in my career in 2005 it was required by my place of employment to have you National certification. Walgreens offered a in house course to help you get ready for the National exam that each technician would be taking to obtain this license. In 2012 I started working at a company that also had the requirement of national certification upon hire.

[Paragraph 1]

Share more about yourself, your career, and the PT profession.

[Paragraph 2]

Share about challenges you've faced, or concerns you have with the current licensure structure. The challenges I have faced in the pharmacy profession is having a structured training program and having pharmacy staff that can actually take the time to mentor you. By having the Board of Pharmacy no longer requiring you to have the additional certification has really created challenges with pharmacy staff as a whole. The concern that would be high on my list is patient safety. The new hires that are able to apply for the license and then can just go into a pharmacy not even knowing names of medications, what processes are in place, board of pharmacy laws and even simple as math calculations is very troublesome. Pharmacist depend on the technicians to be able to have a safe interaction with patients. There some instances where a pharmacist has no interaction with the patient just the technician. Example of a new hire who did not know the laws. This new technician was consulting patients what over the counter medications would work best for them. This technician even had a conversation with a patient that asked if they should still be taking there cancer medication that was a 7 day course. That technician advised the patient that no they did not have to finish the course. A pharmacist is the only one that can consult a patient about whether one medication product or medication that a patient is taking should be continued or discontinued.

There's also the concern of experienced technicians that are doing the training. They are taking on the responsibility that the technician they are working with will be able to take what they have learned and apply to the tasks that are required. That being said the experienced technician has a concern that if the new technician they had trained were to make a mistake that could jeopardize there license or employment they would rather not do the training.

[Paragraph 3]

Share why you are supportive of the bill, and the positive impact it will have if passed. My support for passing this bill would help elevate the burdened placed on our -experienced technicians that are already overworked and doing more with less. There would be more concentration to make sure these new technicians will be successful and confident in there new role. I also think our experienced technicians would be more willing to help train knowing they have support by the company having to implement a training program and require National certification. Then in turn makes the new technician responsible and accountable to gain the knowledge to work in the pharmacy. This will also will keep our patients safe as well from a detrimental mistake that can happen and the new technician didn't even know that it was a mistake. I believe as a experienced technician that having a training program and national certification really helped me work at the top of my scope of practice with in my work group. Pharmacist can rely on me knowing that I have the knowledge and the background how pharmacy operates and the laws that are applied.

The National pharmacy technician test tells you that they have gained the knowledge of pharmacy and practice safely. This will then give the confidence to the new technician, experienced technicians and pharmacist that the system has not failed us knowing we can work together to accomplish the same goal. TAKE CARE OF PATIENTS.

Thank you for your consideration. I urge you to vote 'yes' for Senate Bill 410!