



**Statement in SUPPORT of House Bill 2468
Pharmacy Technician Immunizations**

January 31, 2023

Chair Nosse and members of the Oregon House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee:

My name is Whitney Macnab and I am proud to supervise pharmacies as a community pharmacist in Portland and Salem, OR. In my day-to-day work, I rely on the support and expertise of pharmacy technicians in providing care and services to our community members.

HB 2486, would extend the ability for pharmacy technicians to administer vaccines under the supervision of a pharmacist once the federal emergency order ends later this year.

Community-based pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy interns are integral members of the community that bring significant value to the individuals they serve. The role of pharmacists is expanding in many locations, and pharmacists are in a unique position to provide a variety of clinical services intended to improve patient health outcomes while at the same time serve racially diverse communities. This can include not only delivering effective and tailored pharmaceutical care, counseling, and education about medications, diet, health, and wellness, but also establishing meaningful, personal connections and building positive relationships.

Pharmacists are trusted health care professionals and, as the role of pharmacists expands, we could be a first stop on a patient's health care journey, most frequently due to availability, affordability, and/or geography. Nearly 90 percent of Americans live within 5 miles of a community pharmacy.¹ In Oregon, Walmart operates 45 pharmacies, respectively.

Doctors have historically had primary responsibility for providing care to patients, and we expect that to continue, but pharmacists can play a critical and complimentary role in providing essential clinical care to the public, particularly in health professional shortage areas.

Passage of this bill will help to maximize the use and value of pharmacy technicians without sacrificing patient safety, as well as help to reduce health disparities and bridge the gap for those who live in rural and medically underserved areas. Because of our local accessibility, community pharmacies can help to advance health equity among patients, many of whom are medically or socially vulnerable.

All individuals must have equal access to the quality, affordable health resources they deserve. Modernizing pharmacy practice by recognizing the essential role that pharmacy technicians, working hand in hand with pharmacists, have in caring for Oregon's population will facilitate an important step towards advancing health equity in the state.

We urge your support of HB 2486.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Whitney Macnab", written over a horizontal line.

¹ <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/prep-act-guidance.pdf>