

February 25, 2025

[submitted electronically via: HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov]

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan
Chair, House Committee
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H5353 (Casimiro) – PHARMACY TECHNICIANS – Scope of Practice and Dispensing Process Validation – **SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Donovan, First Vice Chair Giraldo, Second Vice Chair Potter, and members of the House Health & Human Services Committee:

As a pharmacy technician with 41 years of experience in a hospital, I am writing to show my support for H5353, which would allow pharmacy technicians to perform technology-assisted dispensing process validation. Over the years, I've seen our hospital pharmacy evolve from handwritten medication profiles to advanced systems like automated dispensing cabinets and electronic medical records. This bill is the next step in expanding the important role of pharmacy technicians in hospital pharmacies.

Pharmacy technicians already play a key role in preparing medications and ensuring accuracy in dispensing. By allowing us to perform technology-assisted dispensing validation, we can free up pharmacists to focus on clinical tasks, improving workflow and ultimately patient care.

Technology-assisted dispensing would involve us scanning medications and matching them with medication requests, subsequently nurses would perform a second scan when administering the medication to the patient. This double-check system provides an added layer of security, minimizing the risk of medication errors and prioritizing patient safety.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my support for H5353. I am grateful for the opportunity to advocate for this important change that will positively impact both our pharmacy team and the patients we serve.

Sincerely,

Jeannine LaPlante

Jeannine LaPlante, CPhT
Pharmacy Technician, Rhode Island Hospital