

February 25, 2025

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:

My name is Karen Nolan, and I am a pharmacist and a Board member of the Rhode Island Society of Health-System Pharmacists (RISHP). RISHP represents the voice of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians working within various institutional healthcare settings across the state, including hospitals and clinics. My comments and support in strong favor of this legislation are representative of both me and RISHP.

RISHP appreciates that many of you may not have stepped foot in the pharmacy inside a hospital that provides medications to inpatients before, so we appreciate the opportunity to simplify this legislation and help you understand its great potential value.

- **What it does:**
 - A pharmacist can delegate to a pharmacy technician the use of barcoding technology (similar to what you may see in a grocery store) to confirm that a medication picked by a pharmacy technician colleague for dispensing to the patient care unit is accurate.
 - This only applies in institutional licensed pharmacies (think hospitals, clinics, and similar facilities) where another licensed healthcare professional such as a nurse will administer that same medication to a hospitalized patient using bedside barcode technology.
- **What it does NOT do:**
 - No hospital pharmacy is required to perform this practice, it is only to be made available as an option to hospitals with the available technology and quality assurance program detailed in the legislation.
 - Pharmacists remain 100% responsible to review and ensure that all medication orders for hospitalized patients are appropriate, safe, and effective.
 - There is “no shortcuts” or patient care compromise on potential safety issues such as drug interactions, incorrect dosages, duplicate therapies, allergies or contraindications, potential misuse or overuse of medications.
- **Why pass this legislation:**
 - Empowering pharmacy technicians to perform technology-assisted dispensing validation would improve their job satisfaction and engagement



- Pharmacists can reallocate precious time to higher value or higher risk clinical services such as discharge medication reconciliation.
- Rhode Island can follow the lead of over half of the fifty states, including Connecticut last year, which have passed legislation or regulation to allow for this practice.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to voice support for H5353.

Sincerely,

Karen A. Nolan

Karen A Nolan, RPh, MBA, DPLA
Standing Alternate Delegate, RI Society of Health-System Pharmacists

Conor McGladrigan

Conor McGladrigan, PharmD, JD, BCOP, BCSCP
President, RI Society of Health-System Pharmacists

Raymond Iannuccillo

Raymond Iannuccillo, PharmD, MBA, BCPS, BCOP
Past-President, RI Society of Health System Pharmacists

