

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov

February 25, 2025

Re: Testimony in Support of House bill 5353 titled AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- PHARMACIES {LC768/1}.

Dear Chairperson Donovan and members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

I am Mark Rogers from Hopkinton, RI in the 2nd Congressional District.

I support House bill 5353, titled AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- PHARMACIES {LC768/1}

As the Director of Pharmacy at Lawrence + Memorial Hospital in Connecticut and Westerly Hospital in Rhode Island, I have closely observed the significant benefits of "Tech Check Tech" legislation in Connecticut and other states. This legislation, which allows certified pharmacy technicians to perform final medication checks under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist, has been proven to enhance pharmacy operations and patient care.

In Connecticut, the "Tech Check Tech" legislation has been instrumental in optimizing pharmacy workflow. By empowering highly trained pharmacy technicians to handle final checks, pharmacists can allocate more time to clinical activities such as patient counseling, medication therapy management, and collaboration with other healthcare providers. This shift has not only improved the efficiency of pharmacy services but also elevated the quality of care provided to patients.

The legislation includes stringent requirements for technician certification and ongoing training, ensuring that only the most qualified individuals are entrusted with this critical responsibility. Technicians undergo rigorous training and advanced certification processes, which include competency assessments and continuous education. This framework guarantees that the highest standards of accuracy and safety are maintained in medication dispensing processes.

In Connecticut, the implementation of "Tech Check Tech" has led to notable improvements:

1. **Accuracy:** Connecticut hospitals have reported a >99.8% accuracy rate for technicians performing final medication checks^[1].
2. **Efficiency:** The Connecticut General Assembly noted that allowing pharmacy technicians to perform final checks has significantly reduced wait times for patients and improved overall workflow efficiency^[2].
3. **Patient Care:** Pharmacists in Connecticut have been able to spend more time on direct patient care activities, leading to better patient outcomes and higher satisfaction rates^[2].

Other states that have implemented "Tech Check Tech" policies have reported similar positive outcomes. For example:

1. **Wisconsin:** The University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics implemented a "Tech Check Tech" program and recorded a >99.8% accuracy rate for technicians filling unit-dose medication cassettes[3].
2. **California:** Pilot programs at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and Long Beach Memorial Medical Center found that certified pharmacy technicians had comparable accuracy rates to pharmacists when checking unit-dose cassettes, meeting the 99.8% accuracy standard required by California law[3].
3. **National Data:** A study published in Innovations in Pharmacy reported that the error rate for technician-verified prescriptions was significantly lower than for pharmacist-verified prescriptions (0.01% vs. 0.16%)[4].

Our goal within our health system is to implement one standard of pharmacy care throughout all our facilities. The lack of "Tech Check Tech" legislation in Rhode Island means that we would face an inconsistent standard of care between our Connecticut and Rhode Island hospitals. This inconsistency could lead to operational inefficiencies and disparities in the quality of care provided to our patients.

The proposed Rhode Island House bill (S-19.1-37) outlines a comprehensive framework for implementing "Tech Check Tech" in institutional pharmacies. Key provisions include:

1. **Technology-Assisted Dispensing Process Validation:** Pharmacy technicians or interns may perform technology-assisted dispensing process validation for medications prepared by another technician or intern within an institutional pharmacy.
2. **Supervision and Delegation:** Licensed pharmacists may delegate technology-assisted dispensing process validation to certified technicians or interns, ensuring that activities do not require the exercise of discretion or clinical judgment by the technician or intern. Controlled substances and compounded products will be excluded from delegation.
3. **Quality Control:** Institutional pharmacies must document policies and procedures, maintain training programs, and implement continuous quality assessment systems to verify the accuracy of the dispensing process validation.

Given these proven benefits, I strongly support the adoption of similar "Tech Check Tech" legislation in Rhode Island. Implementing this model in Rhode Island would bring numerous advantages, including:

1. **Enhanced Efficiency:** Allowing certified pharmacy technicians to perform final checks would streamline pharmacy operations and improve overall workflow efficiency.
2. **Improved Patient Care:** With pharmacists able to focus more on direct patient care activities, patients would receive more personalized attention and comprehensive medication management.
3. **Increased Job Satisfaction:** Empowering pharmacy technicians with greater responsibilities can lead to higher job satisfaction and professional growth, fostering a more motivated and skilled workforce.

In conclusion, the "Tech Check Tech" legislation in Connecticut and other states has proven to be a valuable asset to pharmacy practice, enhancing both efficiency and patient care. I am confident that

Rhode Island would experience similar positive outcomes by adopting this legislation. I urge the Rhode Island legislature to consider the benefits and support the implementation of "Tech Check Tech" in our state.

Sincerely,

Mark Rogers
11 Valley Drive
Ashaway, RI 02804
2nd Congressional District

References

- [1] [General Law Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT - Connecticut General Assembly](#)
- [2] [AN ACT CONCERNING REGULATION OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND RELATED PROFESSIONS.](#)
- [3] [Nearly A Decade In The Making - Advanced Tech Legislation Passes!](#)
- [4] [Expanding Tech-Check-Tech Will Move Pharmacy Into the Future](#)
- [5] [Tech-Check-Tech Programs: What Pharmacists Need to Know - Pharmacy Times](#)
- [6] [Pharmacy Technician Product Verification Model Legislation - ASHP](#)