

PHYSICIAN VOICES FOR PATIENT SAFETY



“DC Residents deserve access to proper medical care from professionals with the right knowledge and experience to ensure appropriate diagnosis and treatment.”



FACTS

Opposition to the Bill is Overwhelming

88% of DC physicians* oppose the bill

*According to a Pulse Survey conducted by MSDC and Coalition members in March 2024 among physicians licensed to practice in Washington, DC



Physicians spend significant amount of time in education and training should remain at the center of patient care.

CONCERNS ABOUT PHARMACIST SCOPE OF PRACTICE CHANGES

The Medical Society of the District of Columbia (MSDC) is leading a coalition of DC-based specialty medical societies to advocate to amend the DC Health Occupations Revisions General Amendment Act of 2023 (B25-545), proposed by the DC Committee on Health in November 2023.

This bill is a comprehensive rewrite of the law overseeing medical licensing and regulation in Washington, DC. Unfortunately, the bill as written would overhaul scope of practice, place allied health professionals in oversight positions of medical licensing and remove the physician from the center of the care team.

The bill would expand pharmacists’ scope to include ordering labs; scheduling and monitoring drug therapy; and ordering, interpreting, and performing more tests.

1. Pharmacists are not medically trained to diagnose, refer, or order patient tests.
2. Pharmacists lack the time and space to do what the bill permits—91% of pharmacists in a national survey rate their workload as high or excessively high.
3. 75% of pharmacists in chain settings say they already have so much work to do that everything cannot be done well.
4. Pharmacists lack the medical space or training to respond if a person they are seeing has a reaction to a test or treatment.



| EXPERIENCE & EDUCATION | PHYSICIAN (M.D./D.O) | PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT | CRNA | NURSE PRACTITIONER | PHARMACISTS |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Length of Graduate Level Education | 4 Years | 2 - 2.5 Years | 2 - 3 Years | 2 - 4 Years | 4 Years |
| Years in Residency/ Fellowship | 3 - 7 Years | None | None | None | None |
| Total Patient Care Hours Required Through Training | 12,000 - 16,000 Hours | 2,500 Hours | 2,000 Hours | 500 - 700 Hours | 1,740 Hours |



The DC Health Occupations Revisions General Amendment Act of 2023 is a misguided attempt to address access to care. DC residents deserve proper care that would not compromise their safety as well as professional standards.