



August 9, 2016

The Honorable James T. Welch, Senate Chair
Joint Committee on Health Care Financing
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Legislature
State House
Room 309
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Jeffrey Sanchez, House Chair
Joint Committee on Health Care Financing
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Legislature
State House
Room 226
Boston, MA 02133

RE: House Bill 2041 –Recognizing Pharmacists as Health Care Providers

Dear Senator Welch and Representative Sanchez:

The Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) supports the passage of House Bill 2041. This legislation would recognize pharmacists as health care providers and authorize them to perform certain patient services including drug therapy management and administering drugs and biological products to a patient pursuant to a physician’s orders. As health care delivery in the United States continues to evolve and the focus increases on an interdisciplinary team approach to patient care, it critical to achieve better quality patient care that pharmacists are recognized as health care providers.

AMCP is a national professional association of pharmacists and other health care practitioners who serve society by the application of sound medication management principles and strategies to improve health care for all. The Academy’s nearly 8,000 members, including 239 living and practicing in Massachusetts, develop and provide a diversified range of clinical, educational and business management services and strategies on behalf of the more than 200 million Americans covered by a managed care pharmacy benefit.

The high level of education and training pharmacists receive qualify them as “medication experts”. As you know, there are many benefits of authorizing pharmacists to provide patients with certain health care services. Specifically, those benefits include, but are not limited to, improved patient outcomes, increased patient satisfaction, improved access to primary care services, decreased number of drug related adverse events, and a reduction in overall healthcare costs.

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Pharmacists continue to gain recognition for the value that they bring as members of a health care team. We know that an expanded role for pharmacists within health care delivery will improve patient outcomes and reduce overall health care costs. We appreciate the opportunity to share our views on House Bill 2041 and urge the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing to favorably report it. If you have any questions, you contact may AMCP's Massachusetts advocacy leader, Dennis Lyons at (617) 312-5906 or hiddgl@gmail.com. You may also contact AMCP's Director of Legislative Affairs, Reginia Benjamin, at (703) 683-8416 or rbenjamin@amcp.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Cantrell", with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Susan A. Cantrell, RPh, CAE
Chief Executive Officer