INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2015-180

REQUESTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR STUDY OTHER STATES REGARDING THE USE OF PHARMACISTS TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO CERTAIN MEDICATIONS, TO ADMINISTER MEDICATIONS, AND TO DEFINE PHARMACISTS AS HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS CONSISTENT WITH OTHER AREAS OF ARKANSAS LAW.

WHEREAS, pharmacists and pharmacies are located in all seventy-five (75) counties within Arkansas and are the most accessible healthcare providers for many Arkansans; and

WHEREAS, pharmacists are trained to help make pharmaceutical product selection once a diagnosis has been rendered by a physician or a mid-level provider working under the supervision of a physician; and

WHEREAS, when a diagnosis from a physician is not required, a pharmacist is capable of initiating appropriate medication therapy, or drug therapy, in collaboration with an authorized prescriber or under a statewide protocol; and

WHEREAS, pharmacists have been allowed to administer medications in Arkansas since 1997; and

WHEREAS, since 1997, new medications have come to market that require administration, and pharmacists are trained in the appropriate techniques for administration; and

WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas has an interest in increasing healthcare access to its citizens,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor study:
(1) Increasing access to medications that do not require a diagnosis by a physician through allowing licensed pharmacists within Arkansas to initiate medication, or drug, therapy;

(2) The ability of pharmacists in other states to initiate medication, or drug, therapy for medications that do not require a diagnosis by a physician; and

(3) The ability of pharmacists in other states to administer medication.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Justin Boyd
District 77

By: JMB/JMB