

General Law Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-186

AN ACT CONCERNING COLLABORATIVE DRUG THERAPY MANAGEMENT

Title: AGREEMENTS AND POLICIES.

Vote Date: 3/15/2022

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/1/2022

File No.:

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

General Law Committee

Co-Sponsor:

Rep. Michael A. Winkler, 56th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill will expand the ability of healthcare providers to collaborate more closely with pharmacists. By expanding the ability of pharmacists to work more closely with physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and advanced practice registered nurses, it will improve and make more efficient patient care.

The current requirement for patient medication refills often requires faxes, phone calls and messages from the pharmacists to the patient's care office, which is burdensome and time consuming. Bill SB 186 would help to eliminate some of these issues and help the medical offices and the pharmacists expedite patient care. Pharmacists have the education necessary to provide this service and by changing the current statute they could practice at the level they are trained for and expand their role in the healthcare team.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Maureen Magnan, Deputy Commissioner of Consumer Protection, CT Department of Consumer Protection

This bill will amend the current statutes for collaborative drug therapy by expanding the ability of practitioners and pharmacists. DCP fully supports the concepts, but it is still working with proponents of the bill. Proponents of the bill are working with stakeholders to finalize the language which is necessary for the bill's success.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

David G. Beniot, VP, Patient Care Services, NPSC

Covid-19 pandemic has magnified the importance of the services by pharmacists in Connecticut. Pharmacists in the state receive high quality education. In other states over the years and even decades there is more expansive collaborative practices. This legislation would formalize important patient care. NPSC agrees with CT Hospital Association recommended edits.

Connecticut Hospital Association

This bill makes positive changes to existing law governing the collaborative drug therapy management. It will streamline the process for certain medication renewals and remove unnecessary burdens on physicians, physicians' assistants and APRN's. CHA supports the bill, however, recommends some modifications to help conform it to its stated purpose.

Ewa Dzwierzynski, PharmB, BCMTMS, CDOE

This bill will empower both physician offices and pharmacists. It benefits not just them but the patients, as well. She championed similar legislation in RI from 2014-2016. It was a 3-year process, however over six years ago it was signed into law with overwhelming support.

Dr. Cynthia Heller, Physician-in-chief and Vice President, Hartford HealthCare Medical Group

Supports this bill as a primary care physician. Dr. Heller is in a leadership position at Hartford Healthcare, this bill would achieve one of her goals by utilizing pharmacists in primary care practices. This will reduce the cost to patients and to insurance companies, all while getting patients to better to comply with medication regimes. In order to create this new opportunity, pharmacists must have collaborative drug therapy management. Dr. Heller looks forward to working side by side with a pharmacist in her practice.

Dr. Sean M. Jeffrey, Director of Pharmacy, Hartford Healthcare Integrated Care Partners

Hartford Healthcare Medical Group includes 230 primary care providers and 500 specialists, in total serving 250,000 patients in Connecticut. Their system handles close to 1 million refills annually. There are challenges that the current system creates, in addition to these challenges there is a national shortage of primary care providers. It is the belief of Hartford Healthcare medication refills can be centralized to a dedicated team of pharmacists. This would improve the accuracy, timeliness and satisfaction to patients, clinicians and office staff. By voting to approve this bill it will help Connecticut retain our talent.

Dr. Christina, Polomoff, Population Health Clinical Pharmacist, Hartford Healthcare Integrated Care Partners-

By proposing the changes in the statute, Connecticut's collaborative drug therapy agreement, prescribers will get much needed support from pharmacists, and patients will receive better care. The team will deliver better care as the care will be coordinated.

Nathan Tinker, CEO, Connecticut Pharmacists Association

By passing SB186 physicians and pharmacists will be able to collaborate. It will also address, physician and pharmacist burnout, lessen the administrative burden, positively impact patient outcomes and benefit patients by driving down healthcare cost and give patients faster and easier access.

Yale New Haven Health

SB 186 does not change a pharmacist's scope of practice. What it does do is eliminate unnecessary burdens under the current statute.

Marie Renauer, PharmD, MBA, BCACP

This bill does not change the pharmacist's scope of practice. It helps to streamline the process and gives the healthcare providers more time with their patients.

The following also support SB186

Reiham Barmo, UCONN, PharmD Candidate, 2022

Phirin Khen, UCONN, Pharmacy Student

Alice Rivard, UCONN, PharmD Candidate 2022

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed

Reported by: Bonnie Gray, Asst. Clerk

Date: 03/17/2022