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Senate Bill No 2279 – Pharmacy Technician Administrative Authority

Senate Human Services Committee – Sakakawea Room
9:45 AM - Monday – February 1st, 2021

Madam Chair Lee, members of the Senate Human Services Committee, for the record I am Mark J. Hardy, PharmD, Executive Director of the North Dakota State Board of Pharmacy. Thank you for the opportunity to be here to speak to you today about Senate Bill 2279 and offer our support of the provisions in this bill that relates to permitting Registered Pharmacy Technicians the ability to administer injections under the supervision of a Licensed Pharmacist.

This legislative proposal would make the ability of the Board of Pharmacy to develop rules regulating Registered Pharmacy Technicians ability to provide administrations of medications under an authorized licensed pharmacist. Across the nation we have seen the increased trend of competently educated Pharmacy Technicians given the authority to aide in providing injections, often immunizations, for the purpose of performing a technical standard of pharmaceutical services.

As I am sure you are aware, injections, including immunizations, are provided by many health care professionals at various health care facilities. The Board of Pharmacy believes it is appropriate for the well-educated and trained Registered Pharmacy Technicians to be able to assist in this practice on behalf of pharmacists. The COVID pandemic brought about the Federal Health and Human Services PREP Act declaration that allowed Pharmacy Technicians to provide injections. Part of that declaration requires the Pharmacy Technician to be competently educated, trained, and be appropriately registered in the state of their practice. They must also complete a formal course to ensure competencies in providing administrations. It is important to note that these actions are taken only under the supervision and control of a Licensed Pharmacist, who is authorized to provide administrations.

The Board of Pharmacy fully supports this authorization and are prepared to establish rules to operationalize this for current Registered Pharmacy Technicians that have completed the educational and training program to meet the standards we would outline. Currently, we see many Technicians getting trained and ready to inject COVID vaccines and this would continue the process and hopefully serve to provide greater access for patients who desire or need injections and vaccinations.

We respectfully ask for a do pass on Senate Bill 2279.

If you have any questions, I would be happy to answer them at this time.