



SOUTH CAROLINA PHARMACY ASSOCIATION

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The Honorable Danny Verdin, Chairman
Senate Medical Affairs Committee
412 Gressette Bldg.
Columbia, SC 29201

February 21, 2024

Dear Chairman Verdin,

As the CEO of the SC Pharmacy Association, I am writing to express our vehement opposition to Section 4 of S.975 (Vaccines and Public Health), which threatens to undermine the professional autonomy and ethical integrity of pharmacists across our state.

The language of concern pertains to the content of prescription drug orders and the circumstances under which pharmacists may refuse to fill or refill prescriptions, poses a grave concern for our profession and, more importantly, for patient care.

While we fully support measures to enhance patient safety and medication management, we cannot condone legislation that would mandate pharmacists to dispense medications without regard to their professional judgment or the well-being of their patients. Pharmacists are trained healthcare professionals who take their responsibilities seriously, and they must retain the autonomy to refuse prescriptions in certain circumstances.

Pharmacists play a critical role in ensuring the safe and effective use of medications, and they must have the authority to exercise their professional judgment in the best interests of their patients. Without this autonomy, pharmacists would be compelled to act against their conscience and professional standards, potentially compromising patient safety and eroding trust in the pharmacist-patient relationship.

In conclusion, we respectfully request that Section 4 be eliminated from the legislation if it is to move forward. We also urge meaningful dialogue with stakeholders to develop legislation that upholds the rights and responsibilities of pharmacists while safeguarding patient care. We remain committed to working collaboratively to address any concerns and ensure that legislation reflects the best interests of patients and healthcare providers alike.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss it further and find common ground that preserves the integrity of our profession and promotes the well-being of our patients.

Sincerely,

Brian Clark
Chief Executive Officer
South Carolina Pharmacy Association

cc: Gene Hogan; Annie Wilson, SCPhA Lobbyist