

HOUSE No. 1955

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Gloria L. Fox

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act to establish a model program for pharmacists as public health partners .

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Gloria L. Fox

7th Suffolk

Cheryl A. Coakley-Rivera

10th Hampden

HOUSE No. 1955

By Ms. Fox of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1955) of Gloria L. Fox and Cheryl A. Coakley-Rivera for legislation to establish a pilot program for pharmacists as public health partners . Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act to establish a model program for pharmacists as public health partners .

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Model program for pharmacists as public health partners, and for the Department of
2 Public Health to review the Center for Disease Control program guide for Partnering with
3 Pharmacists in the Prevention and Control of Chronic Diseases to decide which model will work
4 best for the a program in the Commonwealth. A pilot project in a specific region or with a
5 specific large employer may be an option to consider. Be sure to build in a rigorous evaluation
6 for the project at the beginning of the planning stage.

7 In the United States, health care extenders such as pharmacists, community health
8 workers (CHWs), and patient navigators help us meet our national health goals by conducting
9 activities and interventions that promote health and prevent diseases and disability. Health care
10 extenders work closely with patients and providers to control chronic illness through education
11 and counseling, communication with providers, and, in some cases, medication titration. Funded
12 programs can play a role in reducing high blood pressure and high cholesterol by supporting
13 high-level policy and systems changes that promote collaborative medication therapy
14 management initiatives, training or certification of health care extenders to reach disparate
15 populations, or the use of health care extenders in multidisciplinary clinical teams.

16 Health Care Systems Change Interventions

17 • Support policy development for pharmacist-led comprehensive medication therapy
18 management

19 • Promote systems changes in health care settings that utilize health care extenders for
20 care improvement

21 New ways to expand team-based health care are needed to protect the health of people of
22 the Commonwealth. Many chronic diseases, which are increasing with the aging population, are
23 preventable or manageable. The role of the pharmacist has expanded beyond just dispensing
24 medications and is evolving into active participation in chronic disease management as a part of
25 team-based care. Programs addressing chronic diseases in state health departments and
26 communities can build team relationships through public and private partnerships.

27 As defined by the American Pharmacists Association, medication therapy management
28 (MTM) is a term used to describe a broad range of health care services provided by pharmacists,
29 the medication experts on the health care team.

30 In *The Patient-Centered Medical Home: Integrating Comprehensive Medication*
31 *Management to Optimize Patient Outcomes*, the Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative
32 defines comprehensive medication management as the standard of care that ensures each
33 patient's medications—whether they are prescription, nonprescription, alternative, traditional,
34 vitamins, or nutritional supplements—are individually assessed to determine that each
35 medication is appropriate for the patient, effective for the medical condition, safe given the
36 comorbidities and other medications being taken, and able to be taken by the patient as intended.
37 Within this system, each medication is assessed for the medical condition or indication for which
38 it is taken. To produce clinically useful data, the indication must be electronically linked with the
39 product, dose, duration, manner in which the medication is taken, therapy goals, clinical
40 parameters that determine progress toward these goals, and actual outcomes. The clinical status
41 of the patient must be determined for each drug and each condition (e.g., current blood pressure
42 level and cholesterol levels for patients with high blood pressure and high cholesterol). Without
43 knowledge of the current clinical status of a patient, the indication, appropriateness, and
44 effectiveness of most medications cannot be determined.

45 Comprehensive medication management includes an individualized care plan that
46 achieves the intended goals of therapy with appropriate follow-up to help the pharmacist
47 determine actual patient outcomes. The pharmacist evaluates the outcome parameters against the
48 patient's individualized therapy goals and re-evaluates the patient to identify any new
49 medication-related problems that might interfere with the safe and effective use of medications
50 in the patient's care plan. These follow-up evaluations occur in a time frame that is clinically
51 appropriate for the specific patient as well as his or her medical conditions and drug therapy
52 plan. Evaluation time frames vary with each patient and are triggered when major
53 transitions—such as hospitalization—occur or at the request of the patient's
54 providers/prescribers.

55 Team-Based Care

56 According to the proposed definition from a working group of the Institute of Medicine,
57 team-based health care is the provision of health services to individuals, families, and/or their

58 communities by at least two health providers who work collaboratively with patients and their
59 caregivers—to the extent preferred by each patient—to accomplish shared goals within and
60 across settings.

61 Role of the Pharmacist in Team-Based Care

62 The role of pharmacists in providing patient care services is compatible and synergistic
63 with the patient-centered medical home model and other innovative models of team-based care.
64 Pharmacists extend the health care team to the local community, providing patients with the
65 resources and care they need. In addition, pharmacists are some of the most accessible health
66 care professionals and have a broader knowledge

67 A PROGRAM GUIDE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH Partnering with Pharmacists in the
68 Prevention and Control of Chronic Diseases pharmacists know the medicines (prescription and
69 over-the-counter) more than any other member of the health care team. Research shows real
70 value in pharmacists' management of diabetes and heart disease. For the millions of Americans
71 with uncontrolled diabetes, the risk for heart disease, stroke, kidney failure, blindness, and
72 amputation are significant. Engaging pharmacists as members of the health care system can
73 significantly improve treatment of diabetes, better control high blood pressure, improve
74 management of cholesterol, and reduce overall health care costs. nated, high-quality, and patient-
75 centered care.

76 Partner with an organization or group that understands this area well. First, look within
77 our state health department to determine if another program is conducting a similar project. It
78 might be more appropriate to add a focus area to an existing project rather than develop a new
79 one. An ideal partner in any pharmacist-based intervention program should be a program or
80 organization that already has something similar.