



July 12, 2019

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Subject: Support for Assembly Bill 8319/Senate Bill 6517

Dear Governor Cuomo:

On behalf of the New York members of ASHP (American Society of Health-System Pharmacists), I am writing in support of Assembly Bill 8319/Senate Bill 6517. The legislation would enhance medication safety for New Yorkers by requiring pharmacy technicians in the hospital and health-system setting to obtain national certification and licensure with the New York State Department of Education. We applaud the Assembly and Senate's hard work in bring this important piece of legislation to your desk for signature.

ASHP represents pharmacists who serve as patient care providers in acute and ambulatory settings. The organization's nearly 50,000 members include pharmacists, student pharmacists, and pharmacy technicians. For more than 75 years, ASHP has been at the forefront of efforts to improve medication use and enhance patient safety. ASHP believes that the mission of pharmacists is to help people achieve optimal health outcomes.

Pharmacy technicians play a key role in our healthcare system in all patient care settings. Pharmacy technicians are responsible for a variety of duties— from entering and filling prescriptions, to complex tasks such as obtaining medication histories to facilitate safer transitions of care, preparing compounded sterile and non-sterile preparations including chemotherapy and hazardous drugs, and roles in clinical informatics, controlled substance diversion programs and pharmacy automation.

According to the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy 2018 Survey of Pharmacy Law, 26 states require certification of pharmacy technicians, assuring the public that these professionals have the education base needed to successfully carry out their duties.

As opportunities for pharmacists to provide direct patient care services increase, so does the need for an educated, certified, and registered or licensed pharmacy technician workforce. Pharmacy technicians can be certified through the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB). PTCB certification provides a uniform set of standards and ensures that technicians have the skills and competencies necessary to assist pharmacists in providing patient care. PTCB has certified pharmacy technicians in virtually all practice settings, including community pharmacy, hospitals and health systems, and long-term care.

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Pharmacy technicians with advanced skills such as compounding sterile preparations are in high demand. It is essential for pharmacy technicians be nationally certified and licensed in New York to ensure that each technician has the requisite skill set to assist pharmacists in providing direct patient care. ASHP urges you to sign A.B. 8319/S.B. 6517 into law.

Thank you for considering this important legislation. If you have any questions regarding this letter, or if we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Nicholas Gentile, Director of State Grassroots Advocacy and Political Action, at ngentile@ashp.org (301-664-8687).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tom Kraus', with a stylized, flowing script.

Tom Kraus
Vice President, Government Relations