

Submission by: Shreya Jani

Committee: Senate Interim Committee on Health Care

Measure: SB-295A

My name is Shreya Jani and I am writing to oppose the proposed measure that allows pharmacists to include the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of certain health conditions, including the permanent authority to test for and treat COVID-19.

While I recognize and appreciate the contributions made by my pharmacists during the public health crisis in 2020, I have qualms about making any authority permanent— especially with COVID 19, a virus and vaccine which has a constantly changing landscape that continues to evolve rapidly and unpredictably.

Vaccines for COVID-19 were authorized under emergency conditions but there is still an absence of long term data on their safety and effectiveness when considering new variants and repeated boosters. There are already fluctuating public health recommendations and new questions about the need for annual or seasonal doses. Furthermore, a general physician or family practitioner may have a more personalized approach to whether they should administer a vaccine to a particular patient based on their health chart and general medical history.

Empowering pharmacists to independently assess and treat COVID-19 disregards certain limitations that pharmacists have in comparison to a medical doctor, who have more training and specialties in dealing with infectious diseases.

I am also concerned about accountability in patient care and do not think establishing a certain care model for convenience purposes should overtake patient safety.

For the above reasons, I respectfully oppose this legislation. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Shreya Jani

Salem, Oregon