**CLIA-Waived Tests Legislative Script**

Hi [Representative's name], thank you for taking time out of your schedule to meet with me/us today. I/we are here on behalf of the New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists (NYSCHP).

My name is [name]; I am a [position] at [workplace/school] and I am your constituent. These are my colleagues [let your colleagues introduce themselves].

[Include introduction about the pharmacy profession]

Examples:

- Do you personally know any pharmacists?

- Are you familiar with different areas of pharmacy practice?

- Pharmacists have to complete four years of graduate training to earn their doctor of pharmacy, or PharmD (between 6 to 8 years total). After graduation pharmacists can apply for jobs in retail stores, nursing homes, the pharmaceutical industry, hospitals, etc. Some pharmacists may even complete one or two years of residency training post-graduation to fulfill the requirements to become clinical pharmacists, working directly with physicians and/or mid-level practitioners in different interdisciplinary areas (infectious disease, ambulatory care, emergency medicine, critical care).

We are here to discuss the following bill:

* Permanent Authorization for Pharmacists to Perform CLIA-Waived Tests S2529 (Rivera)

Access to uncomplicated testing can significantly decrease healthcare costs, limit the misuse of antimicrobials, and efficiently screen patients who are at high risk, thus forwarding them for specialized physician referral for conditions such as diabetes, high cholesterol, and high blood pressure. Such testing also prevents patients from resorting to more intensive services such as emergency room and urgent care visits.

During the peak of the pandemic, the federal PREP act temporarily permitted pharmacists to conduct point-of-care CLIA-waived tests for the detection of COVID-19, showcasing the accessibility and convenience to the general public. Pharmacies within New York have already established the necessary infrastructure to facilitate the testing of respiratory diseases. However, once the state of emergency concludes, the temporary authorization will expire, emphasizing the crucial need for CLIA-Waived Testing to persist.

 In comparison to other states where, on average, roughly 20% of community pharmacies hold a CLIA waiver, in New York State, fewer than 0.5% of community pharmacies have acquired such a waiver. This legislation will fortify the collaboration between physicians and pharmacists, ensuring streamlined communication regarding test outcomes.What are your thoughts about the permanent authorization for pharmacists to perform CLIA-Waived tests? Would you be interested in co-sponsoring this bill?

Thank you for making the time to meet to discuss how we can serve our community better especially during these difficult times. Please reach out to me with any questions or comments. I would be glad to help research into any questions. I would like to serve as your pharmacist resource.