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Last Name, First Name

Facility

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I am a constituent of [ASSEMBLYMEMBER/SENATOR NAME] and I am a [PHARMACIST/TECHNICIAN/STUDENT] at [SCHOOL/PLACE OF WORK]. I am writing on behalf of myself, in support of **S5162 (Stavisky)**, a bill that will recognize pharmacy technicians and codify/clarify their duties within NYS, thus improving medication safety and protecting jobs.

What is a pharmacy technician? Pharmacy technicians support the pharmacist in the technical duties within a hospital or community pharmacy – from preparing medications for the pharmacist to check, to managing the medication inventory. Pharmacists train for years to optimize patients’ medications and could not do their jobs without the support of technicians.

Unfortunately, New York State is one of only **six** states which does not recognize pharmacy technicians in statute. Further, the NYSED regulations which describe “unlicensed persons” in pharmacies have not been updated since **1982** – when the technician role was extremely limited. Finally, NYSED has recently adopted a “strict” interpretation of this regulations, causing a crisis in hospitals and health-systems, with technicians’ jobs being threatened, and with pharmacists being pulled from clinical roles to complete technical functions.

**S5162 (Stavisky)** will codify, in statute, NYS Board of Pharmacy guidance on pharmacy technician duties/functions and protect vital medication preparation processes throughout the state. It will create – for the first time in NYS – education, training and certification requirements for pharmacy technicians; these currently exist in nearly every other state. Finally, it will clarify the importance of pharmacist supervision of pharmacy technicians when they complete vital technical functions, such as compounding, mixing of medications.

This bill is supported by New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists (NYSCHP), Community Pharmacy Association of New York State, Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA), 1199 SEIU (United Healthcare Workers East), and Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS).

Last Name, First Name

Title, Facility