

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT S.5584-B (Griffo)/A.4611-B (Englebright)

1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, representing 300,000 members in New York State, including 1,000 pharmacy technicians in hospitals and nursing homes **supports** S.5584-B (Griffo)/A.4611-B (Englebright). This bill establishes requirements for registration and certification as a pharmacy technician.

Pharmacy technicians who work in hospitals and nursing homes have had their work grow in responsibility and complexity in recent years. 1199 SEIU represents close to 1,000 pharmacy technicians in these settings in New York State. Pharmacy technicians are responsible for receiving prescriptions, on paper or electronically, and then processing the prescription while under the supervision of the licensed pharmacist. In hospitals technicians mix pre-batched medications under the direct supervision of licensed pharmacists. Pharmacy technicians have access to the medications in the pharmacy as well as confidential patient information. As hospitals increasingly utilize pharmacists in more clinical roles, the dependence on qualified technicians has grown in dispensing. It is important that pharmacy technicians are qualified for these important responsibilities.

This bill requires registration and certification of pharmacy technicians. An applicant for registration with the Department of Education as a pharmacy technician must have graduated from high school or received a GED, be at least 18 years of age, be of good moral character, and pay a fee. Registration of pharmacy technicians is important so that there is an accurate picture of the workforce and poor performers can be tracked.

Certification as a pharmacy technician requires a minimum education of a high school diploma or GED, successful completion of a board-certified program, experience as required by board regulations, passage of an exam under board regulations. An applicant must be at least 18 years of age, have good moral character, and pay a fee. Currently employed pharmacy technicians who provide evidence that they have worked as a pharmacy technician for a minimum of five years within the last eight years with at least eighteen months with one employer can apply for certification.

For these reasons 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East **supports** S.5584-B (Griffo)/A.4611-B (Englebright). If you have any questions please contact Helen Schaub, New York State Director of Policy and Legislation, at 212-603-3782.