



April 24, 2015

The Honorable Jay Inslee
Governor, State of Washington
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

RE: Senate Bill 5460 – Pharmacy Services in Hospital Emergency Rooms and Clinics

Dear Governor Inslee,

On behalf of the 99 hospital members of the Washington State Hospital Association, it is a pleasure to ask you to sign Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5460. SB 5460 allows hospital emergency departments to provide a limited supply of medication to patients when no community pharmacy services are available. This is critical for patients who need a short supply of antibiotics, antivirals or pain killers when they leave the emergency room before they can access a local pharmacy. It also clarifies pharmacy licensure requirements. The bill before you is the result of a collaborative effort between the Washington State Hospital Association, the Washington State Department of Health and the Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission.

SB 5460 had strong, bipartisan support in both the Senate and the House. The Senate voted 47-0 and the House voted 93-4 on the bill.

Timely access to medications is essential to providing high-quality, cost-effective and compassionate care. A hospital's ability to provide drugs to patients when no community pharmacy services are available means that patients can start drug treatment immediately, improving treatment outcomes.

Simplifying the pharmacy licensure process reduces costs and burdens on pharmacists, allowing pharmacists to spend more time working with patients and providers, while still maintaining important Department of Health patient safety and inspection functions.

We respectfully request you sign SB 5460 into law.

Sincerely,

Cassie Sauer
Senior Vice President, Advocacy and Government Affairs