

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

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March 13, 2025

Honorable Melissa H. Wiklund, Chair
Health and Human Services Committee, Minnesota Senate
Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue W.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Wiklund and Members of the Committee,

The University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy is pleased to support the proposed changes to Minnesota Statute Chapter 151 regarding pharmacy interns. As the state's only Doctor of Pharmacy program that prepares pharmacists for licensure and practice, we have a great interest in the defining and processes related to pharmacist interns. These definitions and processes impact our student's work and educational experiences, ability to be licensed as pharmacists, and the safety of the public, all of which are extremely important to our institution. We are proud collaborators with the Board of Pharmacy and have enjoyed working with them and supporting them to advance goals related to these areas.

Proposed changes to Subd. 15 Pharmacist intern would allow our students to be considered interns immediately upon beginning the Doctor of Pharmacy program. This is nine months earlier than under current statute and would make Minnesota the 45th state/territory to allow students to be interns once enrolled in the program. As a pharmacist intern, students can engage in pharmacist work activities under the direct supervision of a licensed pharmacist. These experiences are vital to student professional development. A minimum number of hours of intern hours are required before students are able to take licensing exams once graduated and earlier accumulation eases a student burden. Many pharmacy curricula around the nation engage students in these experiences during the first year of the Doctor of Pharmacy program. Our college has applied for a variance from board rules for the past five years to allow for the contemporary practice of first-year intern hours to be allowed and count toward licensure. This statute change brings clarity to pharmacy practices and eliminates the need for continued variance renewal.

The administrative changes outlined related to fee amounts are cost neutral to students over the extent of their pharmacy education. Annual renewal of pharmacy intern registration is important to safeguard the public from pharmacy interns not adequately progressing to licensure and not engaged as active learners. It is a good habit for students to annually renew registration as annual license renewal is an expectation of pharmacists.

In summary, the proposed changes are student friendly, college friendly and public safeguarding. We fully support their passing and are happy to address any questions you may have about our support.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew P. Traynor, Pharm.D." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'A' and 'T'.

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