

## Working Group to Study Pharmacist Compensation

### MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 19, 2025

11:00 AM in Room 2D of the LOB and Zoom and YouTube Live

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM by Representative Kerry Wood.

The following working group members were present:

Members: Rep. Wood K. 029, Rep. Pavalock-D'Amato C. 077, Sen. Hwang T. 028, Michelle Pope (Insurance Dept.), Troy Ruff (Dept. of Consumer Protection), Todd DeGroff (Independent Pharmacy), Julian Koruni (Chain Pharmacy), Osama Abdelghany (Health System Pharmacy), Sam Hallemeier (PCMA – PBM Representative), Susan Halpin (Insurance Representative), Marie Smith (UConn School of Pharmacy), Tim Phelan (CT Retail Network – Small Employer), Paul Pescatello (CBIA – Large Employer), Kelly Cote (Access Health CT), Matt Murphy (Health System – Hem/Onc), Ed Schreiner (Northeast Pharmacy Service Corps).

Absent were:

The Working Group to Study Pharmacist Compensation, established under PA 25-167, convened virtually on Tuesday, August 19, 2025 at 11:00 AM under the leadership of Representative Kerry Wood and Senator Jorge Cabrera.

Representative Jill Berry led the primary discussion item concerning services provided by pharmacists. She emphasized that the role of pharmacists extends far beyond simply dispensing prescriptions. Their duties include interpreting and implementing medical orders, compounding and labeling medications, ensuring proper storage, and counseling patients on the use and side effects of their medications. She further noted the importance of coordination between pharmacists, physicians, and other healthcare providers, underscoring pharmacists' critical place within the broader healthcare system.

Committee members discussed the current lack of adequate compensation for pharmacists despite their extensive responsibilities. Several members pointed out that pharmacists often provide care comparable to other healthcare providers but are not reimbursed at the same level. There was broad agreement that this disparity not only undervalues the profession but also creates barriers to patient access. Members expressed concern that without reform, pharmacists' contributions to reducing pressure on hospitals and primary care practices would remain underutilized.

The working group concluded that additional information is needed before moving toward legislative proposals. Staff were directed to research compensation models adopted in other states and to compile findings for review. The group also agreed to invite testimony from pharmacists' associations, insurers, and patient advocates at the next meeting. A draft outline of potential legislative approaches will be prepared for consideration once this information is gathered. Staff were directed to circulate draft agendas and encourage breakout collaboration prior to the next meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, September 30, 2025 at 11:00 AM. The meeting adjourned at 12:27 PM.

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Allie Kyff

Working Group Administrator