March XX, 2023

The Honorable Marc Berman

Chair, Assembly Business and Professions Committee

1021 O St., Room 6130

Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT: AB 1557 (Flora) — Support**

Dear Assembly Member Berman:

[NAME OF HOSPITAL] is committed to the safety of patients and takes all precautions to ensure that medication is administered to patients only after a thorough review by a licensed pharmacist.

**With this important precaution in place, [NAME OF HOSPITAL] supports Assembly Bill (AB) 1557, which would make permanent the authority for a state-licensed pharmacist to conduct medication reviews outside of a California licensed hospital.**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services requires a pharmacist review of all non-emergency medication orders prior to administration to patients. However, [NAME OF HOSPITAL OR “SEVERAL HOSPITALS WITHIN…” NAME OF SYSTEM] does not have a pharmacist on site during all hours of operations, which could delay medication administration.

Also, during patient surges and unanticipated employee leave, on-site pharmacists may be insufficient to perform all necessary services, including compounding preparations, medication therapy reviews, and other duties while also conducting timely reviews of medication orders. Advancements in technology over the last few decades — along with waivers provided by the state Board of Pharmacy due to the COVID-19 pandemic — have enabled hospital pharmacists to remotely review and process medications. [NAME OF HOSPITAL] employs this method to efficiently and safely review and process medication orders off site prior to patient administration.

The waiver that allows hospitals to remotely process prescriptions is set to expire on May 28, 2023, and the passage of AB 1557 is urgently needed so [NAME OF HOSPITAL] can continue to use this proven and safe practice. The flexibility permitted under AB 1557 would help ensure that every new non-emergency medication for our patients has been carefully reviewed by a pharmacist.

AB 1557’s straightforward approach would ensure continuity of patient care while providing flexibility in determining how best to manage medication reviews for patients. **For these reasons, [NAME OF HOSPITAL] respectfully requests your “AYE” vote on AB 1557.**

If you have any questions, please contact me at XXXXXXXXXXXXX.

Sincerely,

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cc: The Honorable Health Flora

The Honorable Members of the Assembly Business and Professions Committee

Vince Chee, Consultant, Assembly Business and Professions Committee

Bill Lewis, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus