



On behalf of pharmacies and pharmacists throughout the state of Texas, the above named organizations are writing to urge you to oppose Dr. Deuell's bill which would permit physicians to dispense drugs for profit to their patients. There are numerous reasons why it would not be in the best interest of patient care to exempt physicians who dispense for profit dangerous drugs and controlled substances from having to meet these same requirements imposed on pharmacies and pharmacists who dispense drugs. Please consider the following:

- **SB 546 not necessary.** Provisions in the Medical Practices Act and Board of Pharmacy Practices Act currently allow for physicians in underserved areas to dispense medications. (Sec. 563.053)
- **Pharmacists and pharmacies are subject to stringent Texas laws and regulations** that ensure appropriate licensing, education and training.
- **Allowing physicians to dispense the very medications that they prescribe potentially creates a conflict of interest, as it puts the prescriber in a position to profit from the drugs being prescribed.**
- **Pharmacists are required to secure, store, label, and maintain specific records on all the medicines dispensed to patients.**
- **Pharmacists and pharmacies are the optimal providers for dispensing prescription drugs to patients.** Pharmacies have full inventories of drugs available for their patients including cost-effective generic drugs. Physicians will only stock a limited selection of medicines.
- **Pharmacists counsel patients on how to take medications correctly and check patient profiles to avoid drug interactions.** Pharmacies maintain patient records of all of medicines prescribed by multiple physicians that are dispensed to the patient enabling pharmacists to detect and prevent potential drug interactions.

**We urge you to vote NO on SB 546.** Exempting physicians who dispense for profit from having to meet these same state laws and Board of Pharmacy regulations that police pharmacies and pharmacists activities would be a disservice to the people of Texas.