

On February 16th, 2012, the Utah State Senate voted (with a final vote of 21-8-0) to approve SB161 and send it to the House of Representatives for consideration. If the House of Representatives approves the bill, it would be forwarded to the Governor to sign into law. The aim of SB161 is to allow oncologists to dispense oncology (and non-oncology) medications directly to patients. In addition, it allows these physicians to delegate this function to their staff (licensed and non-licensed) at their discretion. USHP is extremely concerned about the risks that this practice poses to the people of Utah. USHP believes that preventing patients from receiving pharmacist-provided services will result in increased medication errors and harm to patients. If you'd like to follow the status of this bill, follow this link <http://le.utah.gov/~2012/htmdoc/sbillhtm/SB0161.htm> . **These bills move the legislature quickly, so please do not delay your action on this issue.**

In order to prevent this bill from advancing, it is essential that we ALL participate in opposing this legislation. There are a number of actions that need to be taken in this effort.

1. Reach out to your legislators (specifically our House Representative) to educate them on (1) the value that pharmacists add to patient care, (2) the diversion that this practice would represent from national guidelines and recommendations, and (3) the risk that this poses to the people of Utah. It is preferred that you both write AND telephone your legislator. It is recommended that you email your legislators, then follow up within 1 to 2 days with a telephone call. In conversing with your legislator, please share your personal experiences & concerns related to this issue. Please feel free to support that using any of the talking points and issue summaries provided as attachments. **Also- please ask them to indicate to you how they will vote on the bill. Once they have confirmed their position (if they do, which they may not), please send an email to Missy Duke at missy.duke@imail.org so that we can keep track of who is in support and who is not in support.**
 - a. If you don't know who your legislators are, follow the link and enter your address. Their contact information is also on the website at <http://le.utah.gov/GIS/findDistrict.jsp>
2. Reach out to the Governor's office and ask that he veto this bill. If this bill passes the House of Representatives, it will be forwarded to the Governor to sign into law. If the Governor has concerns about the bill, he can veto it and send it back to the legislature. You can reach out to the Governor's office by telephone (preferred), or on his website <http://www.utah.gov/governor/contact/index.html> .
3. Attend the House Subcommittee hearing and be prepared to speak on this topic. There are several subcommittees, and we have yet to confirm which committee will hear this bill on the House side. It will likely go to the Health and Human Services Committee, but this is not confirmed. Committees set their agendas on a short schedule, so we may not know when this bill is scheduled to be heard in committee until the day before. I will follow up with an email when we find out. **The best place to stop a bill from moving forward is in committee, where public comments are allowed. This is where it is important that we be prepared to speak on the issue.**
4. Reach out to personal contacts who will support our position and ask them to follow these instructions and reach out to their legislators. Encourage them to share their concerns from their own perspectives.
5. Please complete the following survey. While we all should be contacted our legislators, there is also value in showing the number of pharmacists who share this same point of view. This survey will be compiled and presented in committee and to the members of the House of Representatives. Complete the survey by following this link <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TXMQWFJ> .

Supporters of this bill have claimed that this is a “turf” battle between pharmacists and the medical profession. USHP does not feel that this is accurate, and maintains that the primary issue at stake here is the safety of patients who receive these therapies. Please be mindful of this perception when interacting with legislators. We are the experts on this issue, and we need to be prepared to present factual evidence and credible examples of how this would be a risk for patients of Utah.

Thank you in advance for your support and effort to stop this legislation from moving forward. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me by cell phone or email.

Missy Duke
USHP Advocacy Board Liason