

Pharmacists Can Fill the Doctor Shortage Gap

Due to high patient volume, doctors are often booked weeks or months in advance. Many are experiencing burnout and are unable to give patients the attention they may need.

This dire situation leaves many patients with a difficult choice:



Forego care altogether

—OR—



Choose higher-cost alternatives such as urgent care or the emergency room

While pharmacists have the extensive education and experience to help fill this gap, legislative and regulatory restrictions prevent them from doing so.

THE SOLUTION

States should immediately eliminate the red tape that prevents pharmacists from providing everyday healthcare services to their patients, as **Idaho, Colorado, and Montana** have already done.

Patients consistently rank pharmacists as trusted healthcare providers. Allowing them to practice within the full scope of their training will dramatically **expand healthcare access to the more than 90 percent of Americans who live within five miles of a community pharmacy**—many of which are open on weekends and late at night.

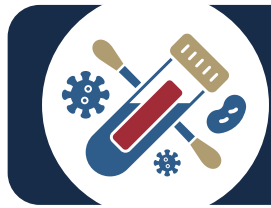


WHY IT MATTERS

The United States is **projected to be short more than 100,000 doctors by 2034**, disproportionately affecting rural communities and creating more so-called “healthcare deserts.” Yet, **the U.S. healthcare system is sidelining 330,000 pharmacists** who are qualified to provide many medical services such as:



Diagnosis and management of chronic diseases and minor ailments



Test and treat based on the results of laboratory tests



Delivery of preventative health services

THE BOTTOM LINE:

Giving pharmacists the ability to deploy the full scope of their training and experience—especially in rural areas and healthcare deserts—is a safe and effective way to alleviate the pressure of doctor shortages.