2016 Legislative Session Ends: Big Wins for Patient Care and Pharmacy Practice!

The Tennessee Pharmacists Association (TPA) greatly appreciates the ongoing support and assistance from all of our TPA members and pharmacy advocates in contacting legislators and advocating for pharmacy practice in Tennessee. In addition to the numerous calls and text messages sent to legislators, TPA members sent more than 670 letters to state legislators in support of specific pharmacy-related legislative initiatives during the 2016 legislative session.

TPA would like to also thank all our state legislators, and specifically the legislators listed below, who worked so diligently during this session to support these laws, thus increasing patient access to pharmacist-provided care and services and advancing the profession of pharmacy!

For a full list of 2016 pharmacy-related legislative initiatives (passed and not passed), detailed information about the provisions of the following new laws, including the ways each of them will affect pharmacy practice, visit: bit.ly/news-legislative-2016

Pharmacy-Related Legislative Initiatives Passed in 2016

- Proposed AWP Cuts to the TennCare Pharmacy Program - Funded for FY 2016-2017
- Enhanced Penalties for Criminals Who Commit Robberies Involving Controlled Substances on the Premises of Licensed Pharmacies
- Increased Patient Access to Pharmacist-Provided Opioid Antagonist Therapy through State-Wide Collaborative Pharmacy Practice Agreements
- Authorization of PSAO’s to File MAC Appeals on Behalf of Pharmacies
- Increased Patient Access to Contraceptive Therapy through Pharmacist-Provided Care
- Renewal of the Prescription Safety Act
- Authorization for 90 Day Dispensing By Pharmacists for Maintenance Medications
- Repeal of the Professional Privilege Tax - Amended legislation passed but tax not repealed
- Regulation of Physician Dispensing of Opioids and Benzodiazepines
- Licensure and Certificates of Need for Pain Management Clinics
- Updated Requirements for Certificates of Need Related to Hospitals
- Updates to the Current Medication Aide Law

Pharmacy-Related Legislative Initiatives Not Passed in 2016

- Medication Therapy Management in Medicaid
- Oral Chemotherapy Parity
- Medication Synchronization
- Nursing Scope of Practice
- Healthcare Improvement Act