



H.R. 3164, *Main Street Pharmacy Access Act*

Rep. Adrian Smith (R-NE), Rep. Brad Schneider (D-IL)

Background:

- **92 million Americans** live in health professional shortage areas (HPSAs) and face significant challenges accessing health care.
 - **Nearly 70% of rural counties** are designated as HPSAs.
- Pharmacists are often the **frontline health care option** for patients in rural and underserved areas.
 - **90% of the U.S. population** lives within **5 miles of a pharmacy**.
- In addition to dispensing drugs, many pharmacists are trained and licensed to provide other medical services, promoting **collaboration in care delivery** and **chronic disease management**.
- **All 50 states allow** collaborative practice agreements between pharmacists and other medical providers – delivering **better outcomes and lower health care costs**.
 - **8.6% increase in medication adherence** for patients suffering from diabetes and hypertension due to pharmacist-partnered interventions.
 - **30% increase in detection** of harmful hormone levels in patients with chronic kidney disease due to physician-pharmacist collaboration.
 - **75% reduction in the risk** of a cardiac event for heart failure patients due to clinical pharmacists working in conjunction with cardiologists.
- **Pharmacists that were trained and licensed to test and treat** seniors for Covid-19 during the public health emergency (PHE) were able to receive reimbursement from Medicare.
 - Pharmacists provided more than **350 million clinical interventions** including preventive measures, over **42 million Covid-19 tests**, and more than **100,000 antibody treatments**.
 - These actions prevented more than **1 million deaths** and more than **8 million hospitalizations** and saved over **\$450 billion** in health care costs.
- Despite the value and access to care offered by pharmacists, **Medicare does not reimburse pharmacists** for testing and treatment services outside of a PHE.

H.R. 3164, *Main Street Pharmacy Access Act*:

- Expands seniors' access to critical primary care services by providing **Medicare reimbursement for pharmacist-administered tests and treatments** for common respiratory illnesses.
 - Expands patient access to testing and treatment services for **strep throat, influenza, Covid-19, RSV**, and certain services in the event of a PHE provided by pharmacists, **in accordance with state laws**.
 - Medicare reimbursement is **subject to state law** regarding scope of practice, supervision, and collaboration with other providers.