

September 12, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814



RE: SIGNATURE REQUESTED: AB 1503 (Berman) – Pharmacist-to-Pharmacy Technician Ratio in the California Board of Pharmacy Sunset Review Bill

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the California Retailers Association, I respectfully request your signature on AB 1503 (Berman). Among its important provisions, this bill increases the pharmacist-to-pharmacy technician ratio from the current one-to-one to three-to-one under the authority of the Pharmacist-in-Charge (PIC).

California has long been an outlier nationally with its restrictive one-to-one ratio, which has limited flexibility in pharmacy operations and created barriers to patient access. Virtually every other state allows a higher pharmacist-to-technician ratio, and AB 1503 corrects this long-standing imbalance by bringing California in line with national standards.

This modernization of pharmacy practice will directly benefit patients and communities across the state. By enabling pharmacists to delegate more routine tasks to trained pharmacy technicians, pharmacists will be able to spend more time on clinical services, including patient consultations, vaccination programs, and medication management. This shift will expand access to care, particularly in rural areas where health care providers are often scarce and pharmacies serve as vital community health partners.

In addition, this ratio change will create new job opportunities for Californians by opening more technician positions in community pharmacies, often at competitive wages. Many pharmacies already invest in scholarships, hands-on training, and career pathways for technicians. Expanding these opportunities will grow the workforce pipeline while helping meet critical health care access needs.

By signing AB 1503, you will support patient access to care, strengthen California's healthcare workforce, and bring our state's pharmacy practice standards into alignment with the rest of the nation.

For these reasons, I urge you to sign AB 1503 (Berman). Please feel free to contact me at rmichelin@calretailers.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Rachel Michelin
President + CEO
California Retailers Association

CC: Assemblymember Marc Berman, Chair, Assembly Business and Professions Committee
Senator Angelique Ashby, Chair, Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee
Sarah Mason, Director, Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee Robert Sumner, Chief Consultant, Assembly Committee on Business and Professions