



## THE PROBLEM: The Health Care Traffic Jam

“A solution to the doctor shortage could be just down the street”

Tim Frost, Fellow, Cicero Institute <sup>1</sup>

- **30% of Americans do not have a primary healthcare provider.**
- **Americans experience long waits for primary care appointments.**
- **There is a widespread physician and nurse shortage.**
- **The management of chronic disease overwhelms primary care and ends up in emergency rooms and on hospital floors.**
- **Illinois is ranked the 5<sup>th</sup> worst state in preventable hospitalizations.<sup>2</sup>**

Yet... More than 10,000 pharmacists are licensed to practice in Illinois.<sup>3</sup>

9/10 Americans live within 5 miles of a pharmacy

## PHARMACISTS ARE THE MOST ACCESSIBLE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS!

Pharmacists are regulated by Bright Line Regulations which require that each task for a pharmacist to be explicitly stated and passed by the legislature.

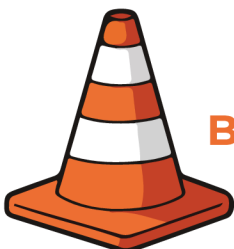
Pharmacists are the only healthcare providers regulated by a Bright Line regulatory framework in Illinois.

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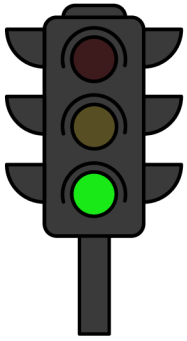
## BRIGHT LINE VS. STANDARD OF CARE

### Bright Line Regulation:

An unambiguous rule or standard that dictates specific actions and prohibits specific behaviors, often leaving little room for interpretation<sup>4</sup>



**BRIGHT LINE REGULATION JAMS HEALTHCARE TRAFFIC**



# THE SOLUTION: Modernize the Illinois Pharmacy Practice Act by Adopting a Standard of Care for Patient Services

*"Pharmacists in many states remain legally prohibited from providing care they are trained to deliver." Tim Frost, Fellow, Cicero Institute*

## Standard of Care:

The degree of care a prudent and reasonable licensee or registrant with similar education, training, and experience will exercise under similar circumstances<sup>5</sup>

In Illinois, the Standard of Care regulatory model is the basis for the nursing, medicine, dentistry, veterinary, and physician assistant practice acts.

Standard of Care is enacted in Iowa, Idaho, and California Pharmacy Practice Acts, and is proposed in many additional states.

Pharmacists have been leaders in front line medical care as exemplified in COVID vaccine rollout

Pharmacists are health care providers with Doctoral Training on medication management and chronic disease therapeutics.

Studies have shown that pharmacists can effectively manage the medication-related aspects of chronic diseases that are causing the health care traffic jam. (references upon request)<sup>6</sup>

## Standard of Care would allow:

Improved **healthcare access** for rural and urban patients in healthcare deserts

Increased **collaborative and interdisciplinary** healthcare

Pharmacists to **adapt** to new clinical practices and technologies

## Illinois Pharmacy Practice Act



### Citations

1. Frost, Tim. A solution to the doctor shortage could be just down the street. Washington Post, 2/12/2026. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2026/02/11/healthcare-pharmacists-regulation/>
2. Explore Preventable Hospitalizations in Illinois | AHR. [https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/prev\\_hosp\\_b/IL](https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/prev_hosp_b/IL).
3. Pharmacists - At a Glance. <https://apps.illinoisworknet.com/cis/Clusters/OccupationDetails/100153?parentId=110800>.
4. Iowa Pharmacy Association. [https://www.iarx.org/soc\\_faq](https://www.iarx.org/soc_faq).
5. Model Pharmacy Act/Rules. National Association of Boards of Pharmacy <https://nabp.pharmacy/members/board-resources/model-pharmacy-act-rules/>.
6. Leonard SN. Stop pretending pharmacists can't meet primary care needs. Health Affairs Forefront January 12, 2026. [10.1377/forefront.20260109.332358](https://doi.org/10.1377/forefront.20260109.332358)