

### Did you know:

- Less than 5% of pharmacists in the State of Florida are members of our state pharmacy organization, the Florida Pharmacy Association (FPA)?
- In comparison, between 36-45% of physicians (MD, DO) and physician assistants are members of their respective state professional organizations.
- We can do better!

### Why does this matter?

- On 9/24/18, the Florida Board of Pharmacy (BOP) opened Rule 64B16-27.4001 for development to redefine “direct supervision”, as it pertains to pharmacist supervision of technicians, to now mean no longer being physically present if “sufficient technology” is available ... **AND IT PASSED!**
- This means that ONE pharmacist can now remotely supervise and be legally responsible for the dispensing functions of up to SIX technicians.
- This modification is a stepping stone to drastically reshaping the way pharmacists practice and how much more productivity employers can expect from reduced personnel.
- This will place unreasonable demands on pharmacists and likely set us up for failure (including licensure discipline).
- In theory, one or more pharmacist jobs can be eliminated from every pharmacy setting.
- Is this the direction you want to see our profession going in?

### How can this happen? Didn't anyone try to stop this?

- Yes... but...
- On 10/18/18, the BOP redefined the “direct supervision” rule.
- On 12/17/18, the rule became effective, despite concerns from pharmacy stakeholders that were collected during the preceding 21-day comment period.
- On 2/2/19, the FPA requested the BOP to once again open the “direct supervision” rule for comments and this petition was denied.
- Remember, the Board of Pharmacy is a regulatory body, not our advocate.
- The FPA, who does advocate for pharmacists, will be petitioning the BOP again in the near future to re-open the rule but they need our support.

### What can we do?

- FPA representatives will be meeting with the Board of Pharmacy at an upcoming Board Meeting to petition them to re-open this matter for reconsideration.
- If this is successful, we will need even greater support to defend our profession when the FPA will then petition to reverse this rule that will take jobs away from pharmacists.
- Low FPA membership means low funds to defend and advocate for our profession. Other organizations represent professions with much higher participation and \$1M in annual legislative advocacy funds. (In comparison, the FPA has only ~\$23k in these funds.)
- Unfortunately, money talks... Who do you think has the loudest voice? (Hint: It's not pharmacy.)

### What can YOU do?

- 1) If you support the petition to re-open Rule 64B16-27.4001, please **print, sign, and send** the letter to the BOP that can be found here:  
[http://www.dcpa.us/copy\\_of\\_ActionLetterDirectSupervision.pdf](http://www.dcpa.us/copy_of_ActionLetterDirectSupervision.pdf)
- 2) **Join the FPA.** Show that we have strength in numbers like other professions do.  
[https://www.pharmview.com/general/register\\_member\\_type.asp?](https://www.pharmview.com/general/register_member_type.asp?)
- 3) **Join DCPA.** Have access to legislative updates and town hall meetings where these important issues impacting Dade County pharmacists are discussed.  
<http://www.dcpa.us/Application.html>

FPA Dues: \$195/year  
DCPA Dues: \$80/year

How much is the future of your job worth to you?

