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October 27, 2023

Ms. Anne Sodergren  
California Board of Pharmacy  
2720 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95833

Dear Ms. Sodergren and Board Members:

As you know, I authored AB 782 (McKinnor) this past legislative session, a bill that sought to allow the flavoring of medications to continue at retail and independent pharmacies throughout the state without subsection to compounding requirements under USP 795.

AB 782 garnered the unanimous support of my colleagues who, like me, recognized the importance of flavoring for medication adherence for children and individuals with disabilities. Unfortunately, the measure was vetoed by Governor Newsom, in large part because of the Board of Pharmacy's (Board) opposition.

I am extremely disappointed and concerned at the ramifications of his veto, which will impair the ability of parents and caregivers to administer critical medicine for California children. In fact, we are already beginning to see the impact of his veto as major retailers across the state are discontinuing their flavoring services at their pharmacies. Before the bill, and the Board's draft compounding regulations, there were over 3,000 pharmacies in California that offered flavoring services to their customers. As of November 1, 2023, there will be only 60 pharmacies offering flavoring in the entire state. In Los Angeles, my community, there were approximately 1,000, and now there will be only 9 in the entire Los Angeles area. That is hardly enough to support the needs of millions of Los Angeles County children.

While I recognize the Board's concerns, I would strongly encourage the Board to work with interested parties to find a way to allow for the flavoring of medications outside of compounding pharmacies. Consumer protection is incredibly important to me; however, there have been no cases of harm in flavoring for decades and millions of flavored medications.

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There must be a way the Board can ensure families have easy access to critical medications while also protecting consumers from harm.

As a mother of two boys and a new, first-time grandmother, I know firsthand how difficult it is to get a child to take bad-tasting medicine. As the Board continues its consideration of the compounding regulations, I would strongly encourage you to resolve this issue and bring back more convenient flavoring pharmacy options for our parents and children across the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tina McKinnor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

TINA McKINNOR  
Assemblymember