

The Honorable Ron DeSantis  
Governor  
State of Florida  
Executive Office of the Governor  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Re: HB 389

On behalf of the Florida Chapter of the American College of Surgeons and its physician members, I implore you to veto HB 389, which grants allows pharmacists to diagnose and treat a multitude of medical problems. This legislation drastically reduces the quality of care that Floridians can expect, with no reasonable expectation of reduced costs for the Florida consumer.

As has been recounted on numerous occasions, Pharmacists, while valuable members of the health care team, lack the training and experience required of allopathic and osteopathic physicians. Specifically, these practitioners simply are not trained in the “differential diagnosis” required to differentiate influenza from other health conditions. Allowing such practitioners to treat patients without the onsite supervision of a qualified physician threatens the health of the patient that may not understand the differences between the two professions. It should be noted that the limited supervision in the bill is minimal, as there is no limit as to the number of pharmacists that may be “supervised” by a single physician.

For the sake of our patients, I urge you to veto this flawed legislation.

Sincerely,

Alissa Shulman, MD, FCACS  
President  
Florida Society of Plastic Surgeons