

# EXPANDING PATIENT ACCESS THROUGH COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE



## Updating North Carolina's Collaborative Practice Authority to Provide Better Care for Our Patients



**1,902,580**  
NC Residents live in  
**Health Professional  
Shortage Areas<sup>1</sup>**



**89%**  
of Americans live within  
**5 miles of a  
pharmacy<sup>2</sup>**

### COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE AGREEMENTS: WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

The vast majority of North Carolina residents live very close to a pharmacy. However, many residents live in areas that do not have enough other health care providers. Pharmacists, known as **Clinical Pharmacist Practitioners (CPPs)**, can enter into trusting relationships with physicians, which enable them to collaboratively provide better patient care in these areas. Pharmacists in these agreements are critical in increasing access to care especially in rural areas, reducing fragmentation of care, improving health outcomes, and reducing physician burden/burnout.



**12K<sup>+</sup>** **LICENSED  
PHARMACISTS**

**294** **CPPs**

**27** **IN COMMUNITY  
SETTINGS**

**0** **IN LONG-TERM  
CARE**

### WE ENCOURAGE CHANGE

#### WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED:

- NC patients can't access needed care because of insufficient numbers of health professionals
- Pharmacists can help fulfill this need, but current laws create unnecessary barriers
- Through collaboration, pharmacists can help patients receive better quality care

#### HOW THIS BILL ENHANCES PATIENT CARE:

- Improves access to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for **opioid addiction**
- Reduces **medication errors** during transitions of care
- Expands access to care in **rural areas**

#### HOW THIS BILL IMPROVES TEAM-BASED CARE:

- Extends physician ability to provide patient care by working together with pharmacists
- Expands patients' access to clinical pharmacy services
- Allows physicians and pharmacists greater flexibility to best meet their unique patient care needs