



**TO:** House Health Policy Committee Members

**FROM:** Rodney M. Nelson, President and CEO, Mackinac Straits Health System, St. Ignace

**DATE:** September 20, 2016

**RE:** Support for House Bill 5877 - Pyxis Machine Licensing Error Fix

Mackinac Straits Health System (MSHS) is a critical access hospital, skilled nursing facility, located in St. Ignace with offsite facilities in Mackinac Island, Mackinaw City and Cheboygan, serving a region with a population of about 15,000 residents and thousands of annual visitors. There is no weekend or evening retail pharmacy service available locally and often individuals must travel 25-50 miles for this service.

Our hospital currently utilizes the Omnicell brand of automated dispensing machines in our emergency, surgery and acute care departments. If this amendment is passed, it would allow us to explore options to put an automated dispensing machine on Mackinac Island at the Mackinac Island Medical Center or at our Mackinaw City medical practice. Our local pharmacy claimed operating the Pyxis system within the hospital system at these locations was not in accordance with state law.

Utilization of these machines in affiliated but offsite locations would allow us to have increased oversight of medication practices in locations where pharmacy resources are scarce. Automated dispensing machines are vital to critical access hospitals and our ability to oversee medication practices. Extending this to outlying clinics would improve patient care. Patients would receive their prescriptions in a more timely matter, therefore improving health outcomes. These machines allow for immediate electronic review and electronic storage of medication dispensing, allow for easy tracking of medications, and provide secure storage of medications by allowing the pharmacy to delegate or authorize access to medications.

Oversight of this program would be monitored through the Medical Staff Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee where physicians, pharmacists and administrators review, revise and approve policies, review drug shortages, conduct drug formulary review, and forward recommendations to the medical staff. The medical staff committee process is a vital and critical component of insuring high quality, accessible and affordable healthcare at our healthcare facilities.