

To whom it may concern:

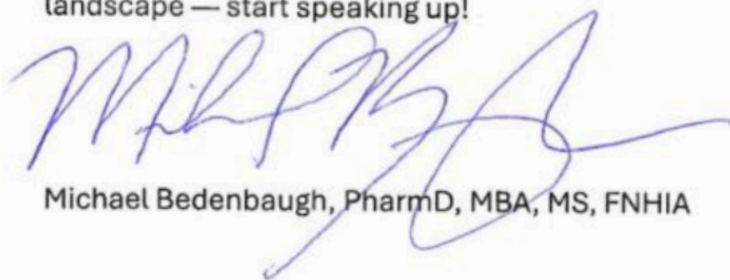
It is with sadness that I resign from the SC Board of Pharmacy today, effective immediately.

As a second generation Pharmacist, I thought it would be a personal milestone to serve on the Board of Pharmacy. While, I can say it was certainly a learning experience I am saddened by what I learned and I am concerned for the future of both our profession as well as the patients we serve. Unfortunately, various stakeholders engaged in regulating the practice routinely prioritize their personal interests and business interests rather than putting patients first. This experience has been most evident in recent discussions related to compounding. A subset of stakeholders is unwilling to compromise to ensure that patients in SC receive care that aligns to national standards such as USP and they would rather continue to do things the way they always have. A common claim is that such changes would restrict patient access; however, we have never been able to substantiate such claims. Additionally, they have argued concerns for how these changes and incremental cost would impact their economic sustainability — a willingness to exchange profits in lieu of patient safety.

Unfortunately, they may be successful in preventing common sense regulations from moving forward; however, as a Governor appointed member of the Board of Pharmacy who swore a duty to “protect the public”, I cannot support stakeholders business needs or profits in exchange for patient safety.

Accordingly, I have chosen to resign from the Board of Pharmacy effective immediately.

I recommend that all Pharmacist practicing in the State of South Carolina become more politically active. The Board is currently largely comprised of independent retail pharmacist — many who have opaque business relationships with each other. Furthermore, the current Board does not include the legally required “hospital pharmacist” further illustrating the lack of representation from diverse practice settings on this key regulatory body. Many of these stakeholders are not looking out for the profession or the patients we serve in my experience. Rather, at times, they are focused on their personal interests and or the interest of a small group of their friends and business partners. If you want the profession to move forward and meet our patients needs in our current evolving healthcare landscape — start speaking up!



Michael Bedenbaugh, PharmD, MBA, MS, FNHIA