

**Join Your Fellow MPA members for
Pharmacy Days at the State Capitol – February 9
Health Screening in the Rotunda**

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Visit your state legislators while in Helena.

The 2009 Montana Legislature Convenes

As the session continues, remember that MPA is your voice and source for legislative information. To access legislative information go to the MPA website at www.rxmt.org and click on the “Montana Legislative News” button.

Key Issues on MPA Legislative Agenda:

- **PMP (House Bill 267)**: A bill to establish a “Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP).” This bill will create a centralized database to collect controlled substance prescription information that is submitted by pharmacies licensed by the state.
- **Advanced Pharmacy Practitioner – (Senate Bill 174)**: The bill would create the professional classification of Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner. A Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner is a licensed pharmacist in good standing who is certified by the Board of Pharmacy, in consultation with the Board of Medical Examiners, to provide drug therapy management including initiating, modifying, or discontinuing therapies, identifying and managing drug-related problems, or ordering tests under the direction or supervision of a prescriber. The person would have additional education, experience, or certification as required by the Board of Pharmacy, and would have a collaborative pharmacy practice agreement.
- **Adding Pharmacist to Board of Pharmacy (LC 352)**: The current Board of Pharmacy consists of six members including three pharmacists, one pharmacy technician, and two members of the public. The bill would increase the Board of Pharmacy from six to seven members with the stipulation that the new person be a licensed pharmacist. Why? We believe the pharmacy profession and the issues surrounding pharmacy are very technical and, in order to protect the public and fairly regulate the profession (as well as the activities of pharmaceutical companies), the Board of Pharmacy needs additional input from a licensed professional. This is the case for other professional regulatory boards where the majority of the members are from the profession being regulated.