

January 28, 2026

The Honorable Austin Harris, Chair
House Health and Human Services Committee
Iowa State Capitol
1007 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

The Partnership for Safe Medicines (PSM), a public health group committed to the safety of the prescription drug supply chain and protecting consumers against counterfeit, substandard or otherwise unsafe medicines, writes today to **endorse HSB 591 which closes enormous regulatory gaps in the med spa and wellness industry.**

These improvements are necessary because medical spas have outpaced existing regulation, and the state needs to act to protect Iowa residents from serious harm.

Iowa's regulators have not yet done a deep dive into the safety of med spas, but elsewhere in the country, we've seen what happens when regulators actually inspect med spas, and the results are terrifying.

Ohio's Board Of Pharmacy (BOP) 2025 push to inspect med spas

In 2025 Ohio BOP started inspecting med spas in their state and ended up suspending more than 40 med spas, wellness clinics and medical practices for dangerous practices. A year end list of common violations shows that Ohio inspectors found medical spas:

- buying from unlicensed sellers;
- using non-FDA approved medicine, illegally imported drugs, drugs labeled "for research purposes only," and drugs not permitted for compounding;
- reconstituting drugs in unsterile environments in violation of compounding standards; and
- failing to manage medical stock: keeping expired vials, failing to record dates on multi-use vials to ensure they were discarded within 28 days, and using patient-specific medicine for multiple patients.

To date, ten percent of Ohio BOP's med spa inspections have ended in license suspension or surrender. This is a horrendous compliance failure that points to enormous patient endangerment.

New York City's Med Spa Inspection Report, "Moving the Needle"

A joint investigation run by the New York City Council and the New York State Department of Health revealed similar problems in New York City med spas. The inspection of more than 220 businesses state-wide led to 87 citations involving expired and suspected counterfeit products;

controlled substances such as fentanyl, xylocaine, and propofol; and the unlawful practice of medicine, some of which led to serious injury.

That's 1 in 3 inspections that revealed a serious citation.

Elsewhere, 2025 also saw an unprecedented second outbreak of [botulism in 14 Massachusetts patients](#) who received illegally imported botulinum toxin injections at a med spa in the greater Boston area. [This also happened in 2024.](#)

The way forward

Iowa needs a regulator with the proper authority to ensure that the med spa industry operates within the law. HSB 591 does that.

Bringing med spas under the regulatory purview of the Board of Pharmacy will be an immediate improvement to patient safety. PSM endorses the passage of HSB 591.



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