

March 24, 2023

Representative Kevin McCarthy

Speaker of the House
Rayburn House Office Building
2468 Washington, DC 20515

Senator Chuck Schumer

Senate Majority Leader
Hart Senate Office Building SH-322
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Hakeem Jeffries

House Minority Leader
Rayburn House Office Building
2433 Washington, DC 20515

Senator Mitch McConnell

Senate Minority Leader
Russell Senate Office Building SR-317
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support Legislation to Ensure Patient Access to Critical Pharmacy Services

Dear Representatives McCarthy and Jeffries and Senators Schumer and McConnell:

On behalf of America's pharmacists and pharmacies, we write to call for your leadership and support to ensure patient access to critical pharmacist services for the communities we serve. Our organizations strongly support H.R. 1770, the Equitable Community Access to Pharmacist Services Act, which will provide patients and families in rural and underserved communities across the country with a continued, vital lifeline to health care services and ensure pharmacists can protect vulnerable senior communities from the threat of COVID-19, influenza, and other infectious diseases.

Pharmacists are the first and most accessible health care provider for many patient communities and play a front-line role to deliver services to patients to protect them from COVID-19 and other health complications. In fact, nine in ten Americans live within five miles of a pharmacy, and patients visit their pharmacist approximately twice as frequently as they visit primary care physicians.

The pandemic reinforced how essential pharmacists are to our nation's public health response. Time and again, pharmacists stepped up to provide first-line care, respond to a rapidly changing public health environment, and protect vulnerable communities from COVID-19. Our pharmacists and pharmacies have administered more than 300 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines, and more than 42 million COVID-19 tests, since April 2021 – not just in pharmacies, but through mobile facilities and community partnerships in local churches, schools, and libraries, many in underserved areas. Indeed, the pharmacy sector itself has met Americans where they are, empowering communities to access care that has been, and is likely to remain, inaccessible for far too many.

H.R. 1770 will ensure the continued ability of pharmacies and pharmacists to be a reliable lifeline to America's communities. While short-term, emergency federal authority has allowed pharmacists to provide much-needed services, these services are set to expire and lack a

sustainable reimbursement mechanism which undermines the long-term ability of patients to access pharmacist-provided health care services in their communities.

Congress must act swiftly to enact H.R. 1770 to provide payment for essential pharmacist services under Medicare Part B to protect vulnerable patient communities, strengthen our nation's public health response, and better prepare for future infectious disease threats. We urge you to support this critical legislation and stand ready to support you in any way we can.

Respectfully yours,

Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP)
Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP)
American College of Apothecaries (ACA)
American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP)
American Pharmacists Association (APhA)
American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP)
American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)
College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists (CPNP)
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacists Association (HOPA)
National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations (NASPA)
National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP)
National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS)
National Association of Specialty Pharmacy (NASP)
National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA)
National Pharmaceutical Association (NPhA)
Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists (SIDP)

Alabama Pharmacy Association (APA)
Alabama Society of Health-System Pharmacists, Inc (ASHP)
Alaska Pharmacists Association (AKPhA)
Arizona Pharmacy Association (AzPA)
Arkansas Association of Health-System Pharmacists (APA)
Arkansas Pharmacists Association (APA)
California Pharmacists Association (CPhA)
California Society of Health-System Pharmacists (CSHP)
Colorado Pharmacists Society (CPS)
Connecticut Pharmacists Association (CPA)
Connecticut Society of Health-System Pharmacists (CSHP)
Delaware Pharmacists Society (DPS)
Delaware Society of Health-System Pharmacists (DSHP)
Florida Pharmacy Association (FPA)
Florida Society of Health-System Pharmacists (FSHP)

Georgia Pharmacy Association (GPhA)
Georgia Society of Health-System Pharmacists (GSHP)
Hawaii Pharmacists Association (HPhA)
Idaho State Pharmacy Association (ISPA)
Idaho Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ISHP)
Illinois Council of Health-System Pharmacists (ICHSP)
Illinois Pharmacists Association (IPhA)
Indiana Pharmacist Association (IPA)
Indiana Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ISHSP)
Iowa Pharmacy Association (IPA)
Kansas Pharmacists Association (KPhA)
Kansas Council of Health-System Pharmacy (KCHP)
Kentucky Pharmacists Association (KPhA)
Kentucky Society of Health-System Pharmacists (KSHA)
Louisiana Society of Health-System Pharmacists (LSHP)
Maine Pharmacy Association (MPA)
Maine Society of Health System Pharmacists (MSHP)
Maryland Pharmacists Association (MPhA)
Maryland Society of Health-System Pharmacy (MSHP)
Massachusetts Pharmacists Association (MPhA)
Massachusetts Society of Health-System Pharmacists (MSHP)
Michigan Pharmacists Association (MPA)
Michigan Society of Health-System Pharmacists (MSHP)
Minnesota Pharmacists Association (MPhA)
Minnesota Society of Health-System Pharmacists (MSHP)
Mississippi Pharmacists Association (MPhA)
Mississippi Society of Health System Pharmacists (MSHP)
Missouri Society of Health-System Pharmacists (MSHP)
Montana Pharmacy Association (MPA)
Nebraska Pharmacists Association (NPA)
Nevada Pharmacy Alliance (NPA)
Nevada Society of Health Systems Pharmacists (NVSHSP)
New Hampshire Society of Health-System Pharmacists (NHSHSP)
New Jersey Pharmacists Association (NJPhA)
New Jersey Society of Health-System Pharmacists (NJSHSP)
New Mexico Pharmacists Association (NMPhA)
New Mexico Society of Health-System Pharmacists (NMSHP)
New York State Council of Health-System Pharmacists (NYSCHSP)
North Carolina Association of Pharmacists (NCAP)
North Dakota Pharmacists Association (NDPhA)
North Dakota Society of Health-System Pharmacists (NDSHP)
Ohio Pharmacists Association (OPA)
Ohio Society of Health-System Pharmacy (OSHP)
Oklahoma Pharmacists Association (OPhA)

Oklahoma Society of Health-System Pharmacists (OSHP)
Oregon Society of Health-System Pharmacists (OSHP)
Oregon State Pharmacy Association (OSPA)
Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association (PPA)
Pennsylvania Society of Health-System Pharmacists (PSHP)
Colegio De Farmaceuticos De Puerto Rico (CFPR)
Pharmacists Society of the State of New York (PSSNY)
Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin (PSW)
Rhode Island Pharmacists Association (RIPA)
Rhode Island Society of Health-System Pharmacists (RISHP)
South Carolina Society of Health System Pharmacists (SCSHP)
South Dakota Pharmacists Association (SDPhA)
South Dakota Society of Health-System Pharmacists (SDSHP)
Tennessee Pharmacists Association (TPA)
Texas Pharmacy Association (TPA)
Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists (TSHP)
Utah Pharmacy Association (UPhA)
Utah Society of Health-System Pharmacists (USHP)
Vermont Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists (VTSHP)
Vermont Pharmacists Association (VPA)
Virginia Pharmacists Association (VPhA)
Virginia Society of Health-System Pharmacists (VSHP)
Washington Metropolitan Society of Health-System Pharmacists (WMSHP)
Washington State Pharmacy Association (WSPA)
West Virginia Pharmacists Association (WVPA)
West Virginia Society of Health System Pharmacists (WVSHP)
Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin (PSW)
Wyoming Pharmacy Association (WPhA)
Wyoming Society of Health System Pharmacy (WYSHP)