

May 2, 2025

**The Honorable Mike Johnson**

Speaker of the House  
Capitol Building H-232  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**The Honorable John Thune**

Senate Majority Leader  
Capitol Building S-221  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries**

House Minority Leader  
Capitol Building H-204  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**The Honorable Chuck Schumer**

Senate Minority Leader  
Capitol Building S-230  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: Advance Federal Legislation to Ensure Seniors' Access to Essential Pharmacist Services**

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leader Jeffries:

America's seniors rely on pharmacists as the first and most accessible healthcare provider to access critical care and services to manage their health, especially vulnerable seniors living in rural and other medically underserved areas. Unfortunately, Medicare beneficiaries continue to be without access to essential pharmacist services for diseases that, while common, can quickly turn life-threatening if not properly managed. On behalf of our 56 organizations and the communities we serve who depend on America's pharmacies – including older Americans, rural communities, and others with limited access to healthcare services – we urge you to work with members of Congress to support and pass the Ensuring Community Access to Pharmacist Services Act (ECAPS). This critical and bipartisan legislation will ensure senior access to essential pharmacist services and protect the vital role that pharmacies play in helping to keep American seniors healthy.

[Nine in ten Americans](#) live within five miles of a pharmacy, and patients visit their community pharmacist approximately [twice as frequently](#) as they visit primary care physicians. For American seniors living in rural areas, the pharmacy is often the first and only stop they make for critical health services, including medications, tests, and treatments for common and seasonal infections. Rural Medicare patients visit their community pharmacist [14 times per year](#) on average, compared to just five visits to their primary care physician. More than half of pharmacists ([55%](#)) work in a community-based setting and [77%](#) of community pharmacies serve populations of 50,000 or fewer. Nearly [200 rural hospitals](#) have closed in the past two decades, increasing the role that pharmacists play as a nearby, qualified healthcare provider in rural communities.

The Ensuring Community Access to Pharmacist Services Act would provide payment for essential pharmacist services under Medicare Part B, ensuring pharmacists can protect seniors from the threat of influenza, RSV, and other common infectious diseases. Operating within state scope-of-practice laws, this bipartisan legislation will ensure seniors can access essential testing and treatment services at the pharmacy. While Americans with private insurance, Medicaid beneficiaries, and federal employees may be covered, Congress must act swiftly to ensure access to these essential pharmacist services for Medicare beneficiaries.

**We urge you in your leadership roles to act quickly and work across the aisle to support ECAPS in the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress.**

Thank you for your commitment and efforts to improve the health and well-being of America's seniors and your attention to this critical patient issue. We stand ready to work with you to advance the legislation.

Sincerely,

**60 Plus Association**

**Advocates for Responsible Care (ARxC)**

**The AIDS Institute**

**Aimed Alliance**

**Allergy & Asthma Network (AAN)**

**Alliance for Aging Research**

**American Association of Senior Citizens (AASC)**

**American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN)**

**American Diabetes Association (ADA)**

**American Liver Foundation (ALF)**

**Arthritis Foundation**

**Biomarker Collaborative**

**Cancer Support Community (CSC)**

**CancerCare**

**Caregiver Action Network (CAN)**

**Caring Ambassadors Program**

**Chronic Care Policy Alliance (CCPA)**

**Color of Gastrointestinal Illnesses (COGI)**

**Community Liver Alliance (CLA)**

**Community Oncology Alliance (COA)**

**Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition (DPAC)**

**Exon 20 Group**

**Family Heart Foundation**

**FMI - The Food Industry Association**

**Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research (FSR)**

**Friends of Cancer Research**

**Global Liver Institute (GLI)**

**Healthcare Distribution Alliance (HDA)**

**Healthcare Leadership Council (HLC)**

**Healthy Men Inc.**

**HealthyWomen**

**ICAN, International Cancer Advocacy Network**

**Immune Deficiency Foundation (IDF)**

**International Foundation for Autoimmune & Autoinflammatory Arthritis**

**Looms For Lupus**

**LUNgevity Foundation**

**Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc. (LADA)**

**Men's Health Network (MHN)**

**The Mended Hearts, Inc.**

**MET Crusaders**

**National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA)**

**National Caucus and Center on Black Aging, Inc. (NCBA)**

**National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care (Consumer Voice)**  
**National Consumers League (NCL)**  
**National Grange**  
**National Hispanic Council on Aging (NHCOA)**  
**National Psoriasis Foundation (NPF)**  
**National Rural Health Association (NRHA)**  
**Neuropathy Action Foundation (NAF)**  
**Nevada Chronic Care Collaborative (NCCC)**  
**Patients Rising**  
**PDL1 Amplifieds**  
**Pharmacists United for Truth and Transparency**  
**PlusInc**  
**RetireSafe**  
**StopAfib.org, Division of the American Foundation for Women's Health**