

September 8, 2010

Dear Senator:

The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) supports your efforts to sustain and strengthen America's small business sector. Many graduates of colleges and schools of pharmacy establish their careers as small business owners. Yet, AACP is concerned that using the Prevention and Public Health Fund as an offset, as introduced by Senator Johanns (Amendment 4596 to HR 5297) will harm small business. **AACP respectfully requests that you vote NO on the Johanns Amendment.**

The Affordable Care Act (PL 111-148) contains provisions intended to strengthen small business including those focused on preventing disease and improving wellness. A healthy workforce is a more productive workforce. Disease prevention and improving individual and community wellness are key components to successful reorganization of our current healthcare system. The Prevention and Public Health Fund provides the necessary incentives for this reorganization. These incentives support the development and implementation of prevention and wellness programs and establish an evidence-base for continued innovation and through program evaluation.

Effective approaches to disease prevention and improving wellness require evaluation of current programs and services and development of new programs and services based on new knowledge.

Established in 2007, the Hendricks Pharmacy International Travel Health Clinic was developed under the direction of faculty at Western University of Health Sciences College of Pharmacy in an effort to address the significant lack of understanding of travel-related disease risks for patients traveling outside the United States. Demonstrating the pharmacist's role in public health, this clinic offers pharmacist-led counseling and education for patients regarding the preventive vaccination and medication options prior to travel. Pharmacists at the clinic function with collaborative practice agreements that allow the pharmacists to administer all necessary vaccines and order appropriate travel-related medications for patients prior to their departure from the United States. Since opening, the clinic has served over 500 patients in Claremont, California. As community awareness for the clinic has increased, healthcare practitioners regularly call for information on patient-specific questions regarding vaccines and/or travel-related medications. The clinic will soon add a drug information service this year to appropriately handle these requests from the community.

Pharmacy faculty evaluate current disease prevention and wellness programs and services through their research and community service activities.

Harborview Medical Center, one of the nation's leading academic medical centers serving the Greater Seattle area with the faculty and students at University of Washington, provides ambulatory care services throughout its clinics where 24 clinical pharmacists play a critical role on interdisciplinary teams in all seven primary care and multiple specialty care clinics. Functioning under protocols and detailed collaborative drug therapy management agreements, the clinical pharmacists engage in quality improvement initiatives and provide leadership for medication-related measures regarding patient care services at each location. When evaluated against non-pharmacist care teams, those patients in a care team that includes a pharmacist have shown improved HgA1c, blood pressure and lipid management in diabetic patients; improved adherence to evidence-based therapy in patients with congestive heart failure; enhanced adherence to antiretroviral therapy in AIDS patients; and reduced hospitalization/emergency room visits for children with asthma.

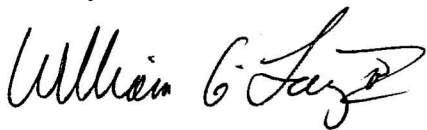
Pharmacy faculty create innovative approaches to disease prevention and improving individual and community wellness programs based on new knowledge.

Recognizing pharmacists have the potential for a tremendous contribution in the provision of prenatal care, the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Pharmacy successfully integrated pharmacist-provided primary care services at a large community clinic site focused on the obstetric population. This site tracks pharmacist-provided contraception counseling, including an analysis of the impact of contraception counseling on patient knowledge of emergency contraception. As this study has unfolded, the clinic and pharmacist-provided services have also created a unique setting to study the pharmacist's role in detecting complications such as depression and assisting in the treatment for diabetes among pregnant patients.

Pharmacy faculty are prepared to bring even greater value to prevention and wellness programs by providing care that is patient-centered and team-based. The educational outcomes of the professional degree program focus on public health knowledge and clinical and community prevention program delivery. The national licensure examination for pharmacists requires that these outcomes are acquired since over 11% of the questions are related to public health issues. Now is not the time to negatively impact the growing importance of prevention and wellness in health professions education. **The health of our nation and your constituents depends on you voting NO on the Johanns Amendment.**

Please contact William Lang, the Vice President of Policy and Advocacy at wlang@acp.org or (703) 739-2330 if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William G. Lang IV". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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