

August 5, 2009

The Honorable G.K. Butterfield  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Butterfield:

The pharmacy profession, as represented by the organizations listed below, applauds your success in securing language in the House Energy & Commerce Committee's health care reform legislation that would enhance medication use in our health care system. Specifically, we strongly support your amendment to provide grants to implement pharmacist-delivered medication therapy management (MTM) services for the treatment of chronic disease.

The U.S. healthcare system currently incurs more than \$177 billion annually in mostly avoidable health costs to treat adverse drug events from the inappropriate use of medications. In addition, the treatment of chronic disease costs our health system \$1.3 trillion annually - about 75 cents of every healthcare dollar.

Your proposal recognizes that the quality of care patients receive, including those with chronic illness, can be greatly improved by better management of their medications through the clinical services provided by pharmacists. MTM services provided by pharmacists, working with physicians and other healthcare providers, help improve therapeutic outcomes, reduce medication errors and adverse drug events, enhance coordination of care, improve patients' overall quality of life, and reduce overall healthcare costs.

Our organizations, representing pharmacists and pharmacies in all practice settings, look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that this provision is included in any final health reform legislation.

Sincerely,

Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American College of Clinical Pharmacy  
American Pharmacists Association  
American Society of Consultant Pharmacists  
American Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Psychiatrists  
Food Marketing Institute  
International Academy of Compounding Pharmacists  
National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations  
National Association of Chain Drug Stores  
National Community Pharmacists Association  
Rite Aid Corporation  
Safety Net Hospitals for Pharmaceutical Access  
Walgreen Co.