

September 9, 2009

Members of the United States Senate  
Members of the United States House of Representatives

Greetings:

The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACCP) agrees with the majority of the American population that our healthcare system needs to be reformed. Over the past several months, as a unique organization and in concert with coalitions, stakeholder groups and task forces, we have brought to your attention our recommendations for reorganizing the delivery of healthcare to make it more accessible, rational and of higher quality. Proposals introduced by both the House of Representatives and the Senate include provisions supported by new knowledge generated by faculty at our nation's colleges and schools of pharmacy. We know that during the August recess the need for reform was challenged. We respectfully request that you continue to support healthcare reform aimed at increasing access to high quality care that is patient-centered, team-based and focused on preventing illness and keeping all Americans well.

We strongly encourage your support of legislation aimed at:

I. Making health insurance coverage more universally accessible and affordable by:

1. eliminating exclusions for pre-existing conditions;
2. eliminating life-time coverage caps;
3. eliminating coverage decisions based on gender, age, occupation;
4. guaranteeing renewability; and
5. eliminating cost-sharing for preventive and wellness care.

II. Improving the quality of care by:

1. focusing on care-coordination across the healthcare continuum through the authorization of pilot projects for medical homes and accountable care organizations;
2. supporting a definition of primary care that maximizes the knowledge and skills of all health professionals through collaborative partnerships and creates payment strategies to ensure sustainability of these collaborations;
3. funding research agendas and administrative mechanisms that increase the likelihood that a patient will receive recommended care through the
  - creation of a center for comparative effectiveness research to guide research around issues such as practice patterns and other areas where reorganization can improve quality;
  - funding of interprofessional health education programs that improve the cultural competence of health professionals;
4. establishing team-based care as the standard of care through funding of innovative interprofessional health education programs that promote team-based models of care such as medical homes and medication therapy management; and
5. creating a comprehensive drug benefit that includes the provision and payment of medication therapy management as an essential health service.

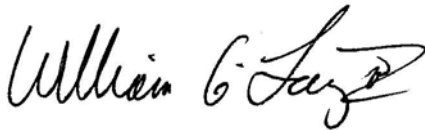
## III. Increasing access to prevention and wellness care by:

1. establishing a mechanism for the creation and maintenance of a national prevention and wellness strategy; and
2. funding research to determine the best practices in prevention and wellness care.

Reorganizing our healthcare delivery system will require significant commitment from patients, payers, providers and health professions educators. The faculty at our nation's colleges and schools of pharmacy are already increasing access to primary and preventive care, improving quality through research and educating healthcare professionals competent to deliver team-based, patient-centered care. These local-level successes can be readily translated into national success stories. Please do not hesitate to contact Will Lang, AACP vice president of policy and advocacy, by phone at (703) 739-2330 x1038 or e-mail ([wlang@aacp.org](mailto:wlang@aacp.org)) if you have questions or need additional information.

*Founded in 1900, the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) is the national organization representing the interests of pharmacy education and educators. Comprising 116 accredited colleges and schools of pharmacy including more than 5,500 faculty, 52,000 students enrolled in professional programs and 5,400 individuals pursuing graduate study, AACP is committed to excellence in pharmacy education.*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William G. Lang". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "W".

William Lang, MPH  
Vice President of Policy and Advocacy  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy