

September 18, 2026

The Honorable Paul Tonko
U.S. House of Representatives
2269 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jen Kiggans
U.S. House of Representatives
152 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Resolution designating September 20 as Pharmacy Workforce Suicide Awareness Day

Dear Representatives Tonko and Kiggans:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to express our support for a House resolution recognizing September 20, 2026, as “Pharmacy Workforce Suicide Awareness Day.”

Observed annually during Suicide Prevention Month, Pharmacy Workforce Suicide Awareness Day was established in 2023 by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists and the American Pharmacists Association and is supported by numerous national and state organizations. Recognizing this day with a resolution will raise awareness of the elevated risk of suicide among pharmacy personnel and highlight the essential contributions pharmacists, student pharmacists, and pharmacy technicians make to patient care and public health in communities across the country.

Like many healthcare professionals, members of the pharmacy workforce are experiencing concerning levels of occupational burnout, moral injury, and workplace stress. For example, 53% of health-system pharmacists and 67% of community pharmacists report high levels of occupational burnout on at least one dimension of the Maslach Burnout Inventory Health Services Survey, including emotional exhaustion, depersonalization, and reduced personal accomplishment.^{1,2} According to the Well-Being Index for Pharmacy Personnel, nearly one-third of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians reported high levels of distress.³

Colleges and schools of pharmacy are increasingly focused on promoting learner, faculty, and staff wellbeing while preparing graduates to enter an evolving and often demanding healthcare environment. Efforts to raise awareness about suicide prevention and mental health support across the continuum of pharmacy education and practice are essential to strengthening the profession and protecting the future pharmacy workforce.

¹ Durham ME, Bush PW, Ball, AM. 2018. Evidence of burnout in health-system pharmacists. *Am J Health-Syst Pharm.* 75(23): S93-S100.

² Cline KM, Mehta B. Burnout and Resilience in the Community-Based Pharmacist Practitioner. *Innov Pharm.* 2022 Dec 26;13(4):10.24926/iip.v13i4.4818. doi: 10.24926/iip.v13i4.4818. PMID: 37305604; PMCID: PMC10256298

³ National Association of Boards of Pharmacy. Mental health and well-being for pharmacy staff. Available at: <https://nabp.pharmacy/initiatives/pharmacy-practice-safety/mental-health-and-well-being-resources/>. Accessed 31 August 2026.

These challenges can have devastating consequences. Research has shown that pharmacists and female pharmacy technicians are at greater risk of death by suicide than the general population.^{4,5} These findings underscore the urgent need to increase awareness, reduce stigma surrounding mental health, promote help-seeking behaviors, and support workplace environments that foster professional well-being and resilience.

Collectively, the undersigned national and state organizations represent well over 150,000 pharmacists, student pharmacists, and pharmacy technicians across the U.S. Our national organizations advance policies that enhance patient access to care, promote medication safety and public health, and strengthen the pharmacy workforce. This includes support for policies that foster the well-being and mental health of health care professionals, reflecting the important work of and in collaboration with the Dr. Lorna Breen Foundation. Complementing these efforts, the undersigned state partner organizations play a critical grassroots advocacy role, responding to and addressing workforce-related issues at the local level.

We appreciate your leadership in recognizing the importance of protecting the mental health and well-being of pharmacists, student pharmacists, and pharmacy technicians. Thank you for supporting this resolution and helping bring greater awareness to this important issue. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this issue. If you have questions or if we can assist in any way, please contact Frank Kolb at fkolb@ashp.org.

Respectfully,

National Associations

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists
American Pharmacists Association
American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists (AAPP)
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American College of Clinical Pharmacy
ASCP - Age Friendly Pharmacists and Pharmacies
Dr. Lorna Breen Foundation
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association
National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations
National Association of Boards of Pharmacy
National Community Pharmacists Association
National Pharmaceutical Association
Pediatric Pharmacy Association

State Associations

Alabama Society of Health-system Pharmacists
Alaska Pharmacy Association
Arizona Pharmacy Association
Arkansas Association of Health-System Pharmacists
California Society of Health System Pharmacists
Colorado Pharmacists Society
Connecticut Society of Health-System Pharmacists (CSHP)
Delaware Society of Health-System Pharmacists (DSHP)
Florida Society of Health-System Pharmacists (FSHP)
Georgia Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Illinois Council of Health-System Pharmacists

⁴ Lee KC, Ye GY, Choflet A, et al. 2022. Longitudinal analysis of suicides among pharmacists during 2003-2018. JAPhA. 62(4): 1165-1171.

⁵ Makhija H, Davidson JE, Barnes A, et al. National trends in pharmacist and pharmacy technician suicide: Incidence and associated features, American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy, 2026;; zrag006, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ajhp/zrag006>

State Associations, continued

Indiana Pharmacy Association

Iowa Pharmacy Association

Kansas Council of Health-System Pharmacy

Kentucky Society of Health-System Pharmacists

Louisiana Society of Health-System Pharmacists (LSHP)

Michigan Pharmacists Association

Michigan Society of Health-System Pharmacists

Missouri Society of Health System Pharmacists

Nebraska Pharmacists Association

New Jersey Society of Health-System Pharmacy

New Mexico Society of Health System Pharmacists

New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists

Ohio Society of Health-System Pharmacy

Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin

Tennessee Pharmacists Association

Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacy

Utah Society of Health System Pharmacists (USHP)

Virginia Society of Health-System Pharmacists