



March 10, 2014

To: CPNP Membership
From: CPNP Board of Directors
Subject: **CPNP Affirms Support for Provider Status Efforts Without Joining PAPCC**

On March 3rd of 2014, the formation of the Patient Access to Pharmacists Care Coalition (PAPCC) was announced. This coalition was initiated by Walgreens and subsequently endorsed by NACDS, NCPA, ASHP, ASCP, APhA and several other pharmacy organizations and pharmacies. CPNP is fully supportive of the concepts outlined by this coalition's mission, namely the goal to recognize pharmacists as providers who deliver patient-care services in federally defined underserved communities.

As you know, CPNP has been working with ACCP since April of 2013 on provider status and was pleased to see more potential legislative progress. CPNP's Board of Directors only learned of the new coalition on February 27th when APhA extended an invitation to join. CPNP participated in a conference call with a representative of APhA/PAPCC to ask questions, discuss specifics and consider joining the coalition. The Board of Directors decided to decline the invitation based on three major factors.

The PAPCC could not guarantee that services for patients with psychiatric disorders would be covered.

This point was of particular concern given the relatively broad scope of the PAPCC proposal. All proposed legislation is given a score by the Congressional Budget Office and legislation with too high a potential cost stands little chance of success. Those legislative experts consulted by the Board indicate that the PAPCC bill would likely need to be changed to reduce its scope and potential cost which may involve restricting coverage to a single disease state. The Board of Directors felt this was not in the best interests of our members or the patients we serve.

CPNP would have to withdraw from the ACCP-CPNP Coalition.

Both ACCP and the CPNP Board of Directors do not see a conflict between the PAPCC efforts and the ACCP-CPNP effort. The CPNP Board feels there is room for both legislative efforts and Congress will not be confused or conflicted about the bills. The Board of Directors feels that this is not a competition, but an attempt to do what is best for all those seeking provider status for pharmacists. However, CPNP was informed that it could not join PAPCC and continue support for the ACCP-CPNP effort.

Lack of an opportunity for input.

CPNP was asked to support PAPCC's bill without being able to review the proposed bill which is anticipated to be launched this week. It is our understanding that there is no opportunity for modification or discussion regarding mental health parity.

For these reasons, the Board of Directors decided not to join PAPCC, but to fully support the ACCP-CPNP coalition while endorsing the general concepts of PAPCC. In this way, CPNP can continue to pursue more specific legislation that would best serve our members and the patients for whom they care.

CPNP correspondence regarding provider status can be found at <http://cpnp.org/govt/commentaries>. If you have further questions about our decision, the PAPCC, or the ACCP-CPNP effort, please feel free to contact members of the Board or the office at info@cpnp.org or come to the Forum on our Future at the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 30 in Phoenix.

CPNP Board of Directors

<http://cpnp.org/about/board>