



March 10, 2014

Thomas E. Menighan, BSP Pharm, MBA, ScD (Hon), FAPhA  
Executive Vice President and CEO  
American Pharmacists Association  
2215 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20037

Dear Tom:

Congratulations on the formation of the Patient Access to Pharmacists Care Coalition (PAPCC)! It is an exciting time for our profession as pharmacy organizations come together to work toward federally recognized provider status. The College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists (CPNP) is fully supportive of the concepts outlined by the PAPCC's mission, namely the goal for pharmacists to achieve recognition as providers who deliver patient-care services in federally defined underserved communities. As you may know, CPNP officially joined ACCP in April of 2013 to support federal legislation that recognizes qualified pharmacists as providers of comprehensive medication management (CMM) to all patients under Section 1861 of the Social Security Act (Medicare Part B).

We appreciated the opportunity to ask questions of Stacie Maas about the PAPCC during a March 3<sup>rd</sup> conference call. Disappointingly, we learned that CPNP would have to withdraw from the ACCP-CPNP Coalition, there was no opportunity for CPNP to provide input to the PAPCC legislation, and there would be no opportunity to ensure mental health services are covered by the legislation. Mental health parity is paramount in the minds of CPNP members and the patients we serve. For these reasons we regret that CPNP cannot officially support the coalition.

CPNP remains committed to supporting the provision of care by qualified pharmacists to all patients, including the medically underserved. We hope to continue constructive communications and collaborations between APhA and CPNP concerning how both organizations can work together to improve health outcomes for patients whether they suffer from medical or psychiatric conditions. Should the opportunity to support both the ACCP-CPNP and PAPCC legislation arise, CPNP would appreciate the opportunity to reconsider joining the PAPCC.

We welcome the opportunity to learn more about the coalition's plans and hope that the coalition reconsiders the positions that currently preclude CPNP's participation.

Sincerely,

Julie Dopheide, Pharm.D., BCPP  
President, CPNP