

March 25, 2022

Congressman Ron Kind
502 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Congresswoman Nanette Diaz Barragán
2246 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman David McKinley
2239 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Congressman Buddy Carter
2432 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Legislation to Ensure Continued Access to Critical Pharmacy Services

Dear Congressmen Kind and McKinley,

On behalf of America's pharmacists and pharmacies, we write to thank you for your dedicated leadership and work to ensure continued access to critical pharmacy services during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. Our organizations strongly support H.R. 7213, the Equitable Community Access to Pharmacist Services Act (ECAPS), which will provide patients and families in rural and underserved communities across the country with a continued, vital lifeline to health care services at a time when our country's health resources are stretched thin and may otherwise be inaccessible.

As you are well aware, the COVID-19 pandemic has placed enormous strains on our nation's healthcare system. For the past two years, pharmacists and pharmacies have stepped up to protect our nation's communities from the harms of a deadly virus. Pharmacies are unquestionably a vital part of health care infrastructure to advance health equity in underserved and minority communities, whether rural or urban, where the local pharmacy may be the only health care provider for miles. In fact, nine in ten Americans live within five miles of a pharmacy, and patients visit their pharmacist approximately twice as frequently as they visit primary care physicians. Pharmacies have remained one of our nation's most trusted and accessible sources for COVID-19 testing, treatment, and other critical healthcare services.

Our pharmacists and pharmacies have administered more than 230 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines, and more than 36 million COVID-19 tests, since April 2021 – not just in pharmacies, but through mobile facilities and community partnerships in local churches, schools, and libraries, many in underserved areas. Indeed, the pharmacy sector itself has met Americans where they are, empowering communities to access care that has been, and is likely to remain, inaccessible for far too many.

Your legislation will ensure the continued ability of pharmacies and pharmacists to be a reliable lifeline to America's communities. While short-term, emergency federal authority has allowed pharmacists to provide much-needed services, these services are set to expire and lack a sustainable reimbursement mechanism which undermines the long-

term ability of patients to access pharmacist-provided health care services in their communities.

We commend your leadership to patient access and healthcare equity for those we serve.

H.R. 7213 would permanently ensure that when the public health emergency ends or we find ourselves at the brink of another national health crisis, patients will not lose access to these critical pharmacist-provided health care services they have come to rely upon.

Thank you for your urgent work on this national health priority. We stand ready to support you in any way we can.

Respectfully yours,

Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP)
Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP)
American College of Apothecaries (ACA)
American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP)
American Pharmacists Association (APhA)
American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP)
American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)
College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists (CPNP)
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacists Association (HOPA)
National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations (NASPA)
National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP)
National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS)
National Association of Specialty Pharmacy (NASP)
National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA)
National Pharmaceutical Association (NPhA)
Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists (SIDP)

Alabama Pharmacy Association (APA)
Alabama Society of Health-system Pharmacists, Inc (ASHP)
Alaska Pharmacists Association (AKPhA)
Arizona Pharmacy Association (AzPA)
Arkansas Association of Health System Pharmacists (APA)
California Pharmacists Association (CPhA)
California Society of Health System Pharmacists (CSHP)
Colorado Pharmacists Society (CPS)
Connecticut Society of Health System Pharmacists (CSHP)
Delaware Society of Health-System Pharmacists (DSHP)
Florida Pharmacy Association (FPA)
Florida Society of Health-System Pharmacists (FSHP)

Georgia Society of Health-System Pharmacists (GSHP)
Hawaii Pharmacists Association (HPhA)
Idaho Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ISHP)
Illinois Council of Health-System Pharmacists (ICHPh)
Indiana Pharmacist Association (IPA)
Iowa Pharmacy Association (IPA)
Kansas Pharmacists Association (KPhA)
Kansas Council of Health-System Pharmacy (KCHPh)
Kentucky Society of Health-System Pharmacists (KSHA)
Louisiana Society of Health-System Pharmacists (LSHP)
Maine Pharmacy Association (MPA)
Maine Society of Health System Pharmacists (MSHP)
Maryland Pharmacists Association (MPhA)
Maryland Society of Health System Pharmacy (MSHP)
Massachusetts Society of Health System Pharmacists (MSHP)
Michigan Pharmacists Association (MPA)
Minnesota Society of Health-System Pharmacists (MSHP)
Mississippi Society of Health System Pharmacists (MSHP)
Missouri Society of Health-System Pharmacists (MSHP)
Montana Pharmacy Association (MPA)
Nebraska Pharmacists Association (NPA)
New Jersey Society of Health-System Pharmacists (NJSHPh)
New Mexico Pharmacists Association (NMPhA)
New Mexico Society of Health-System Pharmacists (NMSHP)
New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists (NYSCHPh)
North Carolina Association of Pharmacists (NCAP)
North Dakota Pharmacists Association (NDPhA)
North Dakota Society of Health- System Pharmacists (NDSHP)
Ohio Pharmacists Association (OPA)
Ohio Society of Health-System Pharmacy (OSHPh)
Oklahoma Society of Health System Pharmacists (OSHPh)
Oregon Society of Health-System Pharmacists (OSHPh)
Oregon State Pharmacy Association (OSPA)
Pennsylvania Society of Health-System Pharmacists (PSHP)
Colegio De Farmaceuticos De Puerto Rico (CFPR)
Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin (PSW)
Rhode Island Pharmacists Association (RIPA)
Rhode Island Society of Health Systems Pharmacists (RISHPh)
South Carolina Society of Health Systems Pharmacists (SCSHPh)
South Dakota Society of Health-System Pharmacists (SDSHP)
Tennessee Pharmacists Association (TPA)
Texas Pharmacy Association (TPA)
Texas Society of Health System Pharmacists (TSHPh)
Utah Society of Health System Pharmacists (USHPh)
Virginia Pharmacists Association (VPhA)
Virginia Society of Health-System Pharmacists (VSHPh)

Washington Metropolitan Society of Health-System Pharmacist (WMSHP)
Washington State Pharmacy Association (WSPA)
West Virginia Pharmacists Association (WVPA)
West Virginia Society of Health System Pharmacists (WVSHP)
Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin (PSW)
Wyoming Pharmacy Association (WPhA)