

February 28, 2024

**The Honorable Charles Schumer**

The Office of the Senate Majority Leader  
S-221 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**The Honorable Mike Johnson**

The Office of the House Speaker  
H-232 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**The Honorable Mitchell McConnell**

The Office of the Senate Minority Leader  
S-230 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries**

The Office of the House Minority Leader  
H-204 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: Enact Bipartisan Legislation to Ensure Senior Access to Essential Pharmacist Services Now**

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Jeffries,

In the diverse communities we represent across the country, Americans rely on pharmacists to access critical care and services to manage their health and wellbeing. For those we serve and others, the pharmacy remains a safe haven to access critical medications, services, and support. Unfortunately, current federal barriers threaten patient access to essential pharmacist services for millions of America's seniors. On behalf of the communities we serve – including Medicare beneficiaries, rural communities, patients living with chronic and complex conditions, caregivers, and others with limited access to health care – **we urge you to call on Congress to support and enact the Equitable Community Access to Pharmacist Services Act (H.R. 1770, S. 2477) before the end of the year and in your capacity call on the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) to promptly complete a score for the legislation.** This critical, bipartisan legislation will ensure seniors maintain access to essential pharmacist services for some of the most challenging infectious disease threats facing our communities and strengthen our nation's public health response in the process.

Pharmacists are the first and most accessible health care provider for many patient communities. Nine in ten Americans live within five miles of a pharmacy, and patients visit their community pharmacist twice as frequently as they visit primary care physicians. For seniors, pharmacists serve as a trusted source of care and support, often providing the first point of contact for medication-related concerns and preventing or mitigating the impacts of infectious disease. Pharmacists assist with medication adherence, identify barriers that may prevent patients from taking their medications as prescribed, and implement strategies to improve adherence rates. Pharmacists also play a vital role in delivering immunizations, providing flu shots and other vaccinations to seniors to protect them from preventable diseases.

Access to pharmacists is even more crucial for seniors in rural areas. Pharmacists play a crucial role in ensuring access to quality care for seniors in rural America who often have limited care options and require additional support to manage a complex medical condition. In rural areas, Medicare patients have an average of 14 pharmacy visits per year compared to only 5 primary care encounters, proving pharmacists play a vital role to meet seniors where they are no matter the circumstances.

Without immediate Congressional action, seniors will experience difficulty obtaining essential pharmacist services for common infectious diseases that place a disproportionate burden on older Americans. Congress must act urgently to codify the front-line role pharmacists play to deliver essential care and services to America's seniors.

**We urge you to support the Equitable Community Access to Pharmacist Services Act (H.R. 1770, S. 2477) and to call on CBO to swiftly provide a score on this critical legislation. H.R. 1770/S. 2477 will provide payment for essential pharmacist services under Medicare Part B and ensure pharmacists can continue to protect seniors from the threat of COVID-19, influenza, RSV, strep throat, pneumococcal, and hepatitis B.**

Thank you for your urgent work on this national health priority.

Respectfully,

60 Plus Association  
Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP)  
Advocates for Responsible Care (ARxC)  
Aimed Alliance  
Alabama Pharmacy Association  
Alabama Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Alaska Pharmacy Association  
Allergy & Asthma Network  
Alliance for Aging Research  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP)  
American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists (AAPP)  
American Liver Foundation (ALF)  
American Pharmacists Association (APhA)  
American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP)  
American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)  
Arizona Pharmacy Association  
Arkansas Association of Health-System Pharmacists  
Arkansas Pharmacists Association  
Arthritis Foundation  
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF)  
Biomarker Collaborative  
California Chronic Care Coalition  
California Hepatitis C Task Force  
California Pharmacists Association  
California Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
California Society of Health-System Pharmacists Research and Education Foundation  
CancerCare  
Cardinal Health  
Caregiver Action Network (CAN)  
Caring Ambassadors  
Chronic Care Policy Alliance (CCPA)  
Colegio de Farmacéuticos de Puerto Rico  
Colorado Pharmacists Society

Community Liver Alliance (CLA)  
Community Oncology Alliance (COA)  
Connecticut Pharmacists Association  
Delaware Pharmacists Society  
Delaware Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Exon 20 Group  
Family Heart Foundation  
Florida Pharmacy Association  
Florida Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
FMI – The Food Industry Association  
FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered  
Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research (FSR)  
Georgia Pharmacy Association  
Global Immunization Action Network Team (GIANT)  
Hawaii Pharmacists Association  
Healthcare Distribution Alliance (HDA)  
Healthcare Leadership Council (HLC)  
HealthyWomen  
ICAN, International Cancer Advocacy Network  
Idaho Retail Pharmacy Council  
Idaho Retailers Association  
Idaho Society of Health-System Pharmacy  
Idaho State Pharmacy Association  
Illinois Council of Health-System Pharmacists  
Illinois Pharmacists Association  
Indiana Pharmacy Association  
International Association of Hepatitis Task Forces (IAHTF)  
International Foundation for Autoimmune & Autoinflammatory Arthritis (AiArthritis)  
Iowa Pharmacy Association  
Kansas Council of Health-System Pharmacy  
Kansas Pharmacists Association  
Kentucky Pharmacists Association  
Kentucky Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Looms For Lupus  
Louisiana Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
LUNgevity Foundation  
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.  
Maine Pharmacy Association  
Maine Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Maryland Pharmacists Association  
Massachusetts Pharmacists Association  
Mended Hearts, Inc.  
MET Crusaders  
Michigan Pharmacists Association  
Michigan Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Minnesota Pharmacists Association  
Minnesota Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Missouri Pharmacy Association

Missouri Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Montana Pharmacy Association  
National Alliance for Caregiving (NAC)  
National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations (NASPA)  
National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA)  
National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP)  
National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS)  
National Caucus and Center on Black Aging, Inc. (NCBA)  
National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA)  
National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care  
National Consumers League (NCL)  
National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention  
National Grange  
National Hispanic Council on Aging (NHCOA)  
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable (NVHR)  
Nebraska Pharmacists Association  
Neuropathy Action Foundation (NAF)  
Nevada Chronic Care Collaborative  
Nevada Pharmacy Alliance  
Nevada Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
New Hampshire Pharmacists Association  
New Hampshire Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
New Jersey Pharmacists Association  
New Jersey Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
New Mexico Pharmacists Association  
New York State Council of Health-System Pharmacists  
North Carolina Association of Pharmacists  
North Dakota Pharmacists Association  
North Dakota Pharmacy Service Corporation  
Ohio Pharmacists Association  
Ohio Society of Health-System Pharmacy  
Oklahoma Pharmacists Association  
Oklahoma Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Oregon Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Oregon State Pharmacy Association  
Patients Rising  
PDL1 Amplifieds  
Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association  
Pennsylvania Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin  
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association (PCNA)  
RetireSafe  
Rhode Island Pharmacists Association  
Rhode Island Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Rx in Reach GA Coalition  
Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists (SIDP)  
South Carolina Pharmacy Association  
South Carolina Society of Health-System Pharmacists

South Dakota Pharmacists Association  
South Dakota Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Spondylitis Association of America (SAA)  
Susan G. Komen  
Tennessee Pharmacists Association  
Texas Pharmacy Association  
Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Utah Pharmacy Association  
Utah Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Vermont Pharmacists Association  
Vermont Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Virginia Pharmacy Association  
Virginia Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Washington State Pharmacy Association  
West Health Institute  
West Virginia Pharmacists Association  
WomenHeart  
Wyoming Society of Health-System Pharmacy