

May 25, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable G.K. Butterfield  
2080 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bob Casey  
393 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable David McKinley  
2239 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sherrod Brown  
503 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: Support for the *Pharmacy and Medically Underserved Areas Enhancement Act***

Dear Senators Grassley, Casey, and Brown, Representatives Butterfield and McKinley:

The undersigned organizations thank you for your leadership and applaud the introduction of the *Pharmacy and Medically Underserved Areas Enhancement Act* (H.R. 2759/S.1362). Your legislation will ensure that Medicare beneficiaries, our nation's seniors, and Americans in underserved areas are no longer denied access to healthcare services available from pharmacists.

States are increasingly recognizing the ability of pharmacists to improve access to services like point-of-care testing, access to urgently needed medications such as pre-and post-exposure prophylaxis for HIV, management of complex medication regimens, and smoking cessation services. This has never been truer than during our current public health emergency, when states are asking pharmacists to provide a range of important services including COVID-19 testing, and vaccinations against COVID-19 and other diseases. In rural and underserved communities, pharmacists may be the only accessible healthcare provider.

Despite state laws allowing patients to access healthcare services from their pharmacist, Medicare Part B does not cover these services when they are provided to Medicare beneficiaries. As a result, beneficiaries' access to the healthcare provider with the most medication-related education and training is severely restricted. Your bill would increase the health of patients and correct this restriction on access to care for Medicare beneficiaries.

The bill does not expand pharmacists' scope of practice in any state. Rather, it allows pharmacists to provide Medicare beneficiaries with the same level of care that they are licensed to provide to other patients.

We thank you for your leadership on ensuring Medicare beneficiaries have access to pharmacist services and the introduction of the *Pharmacy and Medically Underserved Areas Enhancement Act*. We look forward to supporting your efforts to advance this important legislation to improve access to care for our nation's Medicare beneficiaries.

Sincerely,

### **Pharmacist Professional Associations**

Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy  
Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education  
Alabama Pharmacy Association  
Alabama Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Alaska Pharmacists Association  
Alaska Pharmacists Association-Academy of Health-System Pharmacy  
Alliance for Pharmacy Compounding  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American College of Apothecaries  
American Pharmacists Association  
American Society of Consultant Pharmacists  
Arizona Pharmacy Association  
Arizona Pharmacy Association Health-Systems Academy (Arizona Pharmacy Association)  
Arkansas Association of Health-System Pharmacists  
Arkansas Pharmacists Association  
ASHP (American Society of Health-System Pharmacists)  
California Pharmacists Association  
California Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Colegio de Farmacéuticos de Puerto Rico  
College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists  
Colorado Pharmacists Society, Academy of Health-System Pharmacists  
Connecticut Pharmacists Association  
Connecticut Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Delaware Pharmacists Society  
Delaware Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
FMI – The Food Industry Association  
Florida Pharmacy Association  
Florida Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Georgia Pharmacy Association  
Georgia Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Hawaii Academy of Health-System Pharmacists  
Hawaii Pharmacists Association  
Healthcare Leadership Council  
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association  
Idaho Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Idaho State Pharmacy Association  
Illinois Council of Health-System Pharmacists  
Illinois Pharmacists Association  
Indiana Pharmacists Association  
Iowa Pharmacy Association  
Kansas Council of Health-System Pharmacy  
Kansas Pharmacists Association  
Kentucky Pharmacists Association  
Kentucky Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Louisiana Pharmacists Association  
Louisiana Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Maine Pharmacy Association  
Maine Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Maryland Pharmacists Association

### **Patient and Provider Organizations**

Alabama Rural Health Association  
Anticoagulation Forum  
Arizona Rural Health Association  
Arkansas Rural Health Association  
The Association of Community Cancer Centers  
Colorado Rural Health Association  
Hawaii State Rural Health Association  
Idaho Rural Health Association  
Illinois Rural Health Association  
Indiana Rural Health Association  
Iowa Rural Health Association  
Kansas Rural Health Association  
Louisiana Rural Health Association  
Maryland Rural Health Association  
Minnesota Rural Health Association  
Mississippi Rural Health Association  
Missouri Rural Health Association  
Montana Rural Health Association  
National Center for Farmworker Health  
National Center for Frontier Communities  
National Consumers League  
National Rural Health Association  
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable  
Nebraska Rural Health Association  
New England Rural Health Roundtable  
Ohio Rural Health Association  
Oregon Rural Health Association  
Pennsylvania Rural Health Association  
Rural Health Association of Oklahoma  
Tennessee Rural Health Association  
Virginia Rural Health Association  
Washington Rural Health Association

### **Business Community**

Amerisource Bergen  
Balls Food Stores (Balls Price Chopper, Hen House & Sun Fresh Pharmacies)  
Cardinal Health  
Discount Drug Mart  
GRX Holdings  
Hartig Drug Company  
Kroger Health  
Lewis Drug  
McKesson  
Nucara Pharmacy  
Omnicell  
Thrifty White Pharmacy  
Wegmans Food Markets

Maryland Society of Health-System Pharmacy  
Massachusetts Pharmacists Association  
Massachusetts Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Michigan Pharmacists Association  
Michigan Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Minnesota Pharmacists Association  
Minnesota Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Mississippi Pharmacists Association  
Mississippi Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Missouri Pharmacy Association  
Missouri Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Montana Pharmacy Association  
Montana Pharmacy Association Health-System  
Academy  
National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations  
National Association of Chain Drug Stores  
National Association of Specialty Pharmacy  
National Community Pharmacists Association  
National Pharmaceutical Association  
Nebraska Pharmacists Association  
Nebraska Pharmacists Association Hospital/Health-  
System Network  
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 Mexico Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
New York State Council of Health-System Pharmacists  
North Carolina Association of Pharmacists  
North Carolina Association of Pharmacists Health-  
System Forum  
North Dakota Pharmacists Association  
North Dakota Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Ohio Pharmacists Association  
Ohio Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Oklahoma Pharmacists Association  
Oklahoma Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Oregon Society Health-System Pharmacists  
Oregon State Pharmacy Association  
Pediatric Pharmacy Association  
Pennsylvania Association of Chain Drug Stores  
Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association  
Pennsylvania Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Pharmacists Society of the State of New York  
Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin  
Rhode Island Pharmacists Association  
Rhode Island Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Senior Care Pharmacy Coalition  
Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists  
South Carolina Pharmacy Association

South Carolina Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
South Dakota Pharmacists Association  
South Dakota Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Tennessee Pharmacists Association  
Tennessee Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
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 Pharmacists Association  
Virginia Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Washington DC Pharmacy Association  
Washington Metropolitan Society of Health-System  
Pharmacists  
Washington State Pharmacy Association  
Washington State Pharmacy Association Health-  
Systems Academy  
West Virginia Pharmacists Association  
West Virginia Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Wyoming Pharmacy Association  
Wyoming Society of Health-System Pharmacy