

June 26, 2009

The Honorable Max Baucus  
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Ranking Member, Senate Finance Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Baucus and Ranking Member Grassley:

As you work to finalize your health reform proposal, the pharmacy profession, as represented by the organizations listed below, asks that you support passage of proposals to enhance medication use in our health care system by recognizing that the quality of care patients receive, including those with chronic illness, can be greatly improved by better management of their medications through the clinical services provided by pharmacists. This concept is reflected in the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee's Affordable Health Choices Act (the Act).

Specifically, Section 213 of the Act would provide grants to implement pharmacist-delivered medication management (MTM) services for the treatment of chronic disease. Also, Section 212 of the Act would provide community health teams working within a medical home model the support necessary for local primary care providers to provide access to pharmacist-delivered medication therapy management services, including medication reconciliation.

The U.S. healthcare system currently incurs more than \$177 billion annually in mostly avoidable health costs to treat adverse drug events from the inappropriate use of medications. In addition, the treatment of chronic disease costs our health system \$1.3 trillion annually - about 75 cents of every healthcare dollar.

MTM services provided by pharmacists, working with physicians and other healthcare providers, help improve therapeutic outcomes, reduce medication errors and adverse drug events, enhance coordination of care and improve patients' overall quality of life, and reduce overall healthcare costs.

Our organizations, representing pharmacists and pharmacies in all practice settings, look forward to continuing to work with the Committee to enact health reform and strongly encourage the Committee to include provisions modeled after these Senate proposals in any final health reform package.

Sincerely,

Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American College of Clinical Pharmacy  
American Pharmacists Association  
American Society of Consultant Pharmacists  
American Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
Food Marketing Institute  
International Academy of Compounding  
Pharmacists

National Alliance of State Pharmacy  
Associations  
National Association of Chain Drug Stores  
National Community Pharmacists Association  
Rite Aid Corporation  
Walgreen Co.

cc: Members of the Senate Finance Committee