NEW BUSINESS

(To be submitted and introduced by Delegates only)

Introduced by: ___________________ Hillary Blackburn

(Name)

1/21/2020 APhA Academy of Pharmacy Practice and Management (APhA-APPM) on behalf of the Care of Underserved Patients Special Interest Group (SIG)

(Organization)

Subject: Providing Affordable and Comprehensive Pharmacy Services to the Underserved

Motion: To adopt the following new policy statements:

1. APhA supports the expansion and increased sources of funding for pharmacies and pharmacy services that serve the needs of underserved populations to provide better health outcomes and lower healthcare costs for underserved populations.

2. APhA supports charitable pharmacies and pharmacy services that ensure the quality, safety, drug storage, and integrity of the drug product and supply chain, in accordance with applicable law.

Background:

This policy will increase awareness of charitable pharmacy programs as an option for patients who are uninsured or underinsured as a method to increase medication adherence in these populations through reduced cost of their medications. By increasing medication adherence, this population would see improved healthcare outcomes leading to less preventable healthcare utilizations and a decrease in uncompensated care costs. Medication nonadherence is a $100-300 billion annual issue to our healthcare system. A contributing factor to nonadherence is the cost of medications, which is commonly ranked among top reasons why patients refuse to use medications. Cost is particularly a burden for the large number of uninsured (~28 million) and underinsured patients across the country who often go without medications that would manage many of their chronic conditions on an outpatient basis.

Charitable pharmacies (standalone, in clinics, and in hospitals) have been growing across the country to support those lacking access to medications. Pharmacists are uniquely positioned to establish comprehensive medication access programs to significantly lower the cost of unnecessary hospital utilizations due to lack of adherence. With access to medicine, underserved populations would gain increased adherence and decreased utilization of the healthcare system; thus, pharmacies can play a critical role in reducing their overall health system’s budget.
by helping patients get access to their medications. This reduces uncompensated costs when uninsured patients are admitted to the ED or hospital due to lack of medication to manage their conditions.
By supporting charitable pharmacies and the pharmacists working in them through awareness campaigns, APhA can help patients in medically underserved communities have better access to healthcare services provided by pharmacists, whom are often found in rural communities. This policy highlights the work of pharmacists providing care for underserved patients which can increase the support for pharmacists achieving provider status through The Pharmacy and Medically Underserved Areas Enhancement Act (H.R. 592/S. 314).

Current APhA Policy & Bylaws:
None.

**Phone numbers will only be used by the New Business Review Committee in case there are questions for the delegate who submitted the New Business Item Content.**
New Business Items are due to the Speaker of the House by **February 19, 2020** (30 days prior to the start of the first House session). Consideration of urgent items can be presented with a suspension of the House Rules at the session where New Business will be acted upon. Please submit New Business Items to the Speaker of the House via email at hod@aphanet.org.