Back the PAC!
The American Pharmacists Association Political Action Committee (APhA-PAC) was formed to support candidates for federal office who have supported pharmacy issues and recognize the value of pharmacists in the healthcare system. APhA's PAC is a tool in which pharmacists can maintain presence in a crowded arena of special interests in the federal election process. The PAC is a voluntary association of APhA members who pool their resources to increase the impact of their contributions to candidates who support the profession. APhA-PAC is not affiliated with any political party, or other pharmacy association. The success of APhA's legislative priorities is dependent on the strength of APhA-PAC. That is why it is crucial for all APhA members to become involved with the PAC. Student pharmacist are also represented on the eight-member Board of Governors, which oversees the fundraising activities of the Committee and decides who receives an APhA-PAC contribution.

What are the benefits of a PAC?
Public policies affect every aspect of how pharmacists apply knowledge, experience, and skills to ensure optimal drug therapy outcomes for patients. Public policies influence every aspect of the profession of pharmacy and how pharmacists care for their patients. APhA-PAC's aim is to keep in office or elect federal candidates who understand our issues and will work with us in developing sound public policies. Through PAC contributions and other outreach efforts, APhA is able to build positive relationships with elected officials and candidates who make policy decisions affecting pharmacists. Good candidates can have superb ideas and a great message, but without money to help them get the message through they have no chance to convince voters they are right for the job. APhA-PAC uses the funds to educate them on our issues and our industry. PACs can serve as a vehicle for a united voice to present a viewpoint to the federal government. APhA-PAC enables individuals to become involved financially with their professional livelihood in a powerful and positive way.

How are PACs regulated?
PACs are regulated by federal campaign finance laws. The Federal Election Commission (FEC) was established by the 1971 Federal Election Campaign Act law (FECA). The FEC collects detailed financial activity of all PACs on a frequent basis and makes the reports available to any citizen. All federal PACs operate under strict limits on what they can give per candidate per election. Of note, a PAC is not the same thing as a “super PAC” that can raise and spend unlimited amounts of money from corporations, individuals, unions and associations. PACs like the APhA-PAC are the most legal, transparent, federally monitored means of contributing to political candidates.
How to Participate in the Back the PAC Challenge?

- Watch the annual Back the PAC webinar for more information, rules, and event ideas: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NzrN6p7u4tA (January 19, 2016)
- Plan activities that raise funds along with political awareness, such as conducting a straw poll for the elections, hosting a political quiz game, hosting your member of Congress, or doing a political and legislative briefing on the current state of provider status.
- Find alumni of your school, faculty, preceptors, or deans who are willing to match the contributions of the student members of your chapter. Just be sure to only solicit current APhA members for APhA-PAC donations.
- Fill out the online “Chapter Submission Form” for each event you hold during the campaign. If your chapter decides to raise money at multiple events and activities, you will need to keep track of the funds collected each day for the event(s) and fill out separate submission forms for each event. Your total amount raised in the course of the Campaign will be tallied for the purpose of the competition.
- For most events, we would highly encourage you to ask your students to make their contributions via text-to-donate by texting “Action” to 50155. This is one of the easiest ways for students to make a contribution. If this is not possible, or a student would like to donate cash, then all monies should be collected and given to the Policy Vice President within 10 days of receipt and posted to APhA within 10 days of receipt.
- If you are collecting funds, it is simplest if the Policy Vice President writes a personal check accounting for all of the contributions collected if made by cash.
- Please make the check payable to APhA-PAC. The check should state the name of the event in the memo field in the bottom left corner of the check. (If you are sending checks from multiple individuals, please write the name of your school on the memo line.) Please do not send a check from your Chapter’s account, only use personal checks.
- The check for each event should be mailed to this address:
  APhA-PAC
  c/o Lauren DePutter
  2215 Constitution Avenue, NW
  Washington, DC 20037-2985
- For more information or questions, please contact Lauren DePutter, Senior Manager, Grassroots Advocacy and PAC at ldeputter@aphanet.org or (202) 223-7181.