October 22, 2013

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Alexander:

On behalf of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), and our more than 62,000 members, I am pleased to announce our support of H.R. 3204, the Drug Quality and Security Act. We believe the legislation would protect the public from harm while maintaining access for consumers to important and often life-saving compounded preparations.

We appreciate that the legislation provides a clear delineation between compounders engaged in traditional pharmacy practice from those making large volumes of compounded drugs without individual prescriptions. Our members were concerned about being forced to register with the FDA and this legislation would allow traditional pharmacies to continue to be regulated by state boards of pharmacy while creating outsourcing facilities that would be subject to FDA oversight.

APhA, founded in 1852 as the American Pharmaceutical Association, represents pharmacists, student pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and others interested in improving medication use and advancing patient care. APhA members provide care in all practice settings, including community pharmacies, hospitals, long-term care facilities, managed care organizations, and the uniformed services.

Thank you for your leadership and hard work on this issue. We look forward to supporting your efforts and working with you as the legislation moves through the process.

Sincerely,
Thomas E. Menighan, BSPharm, MBA, ScD (Hon), FAPhA
Executive Vice President and CEO