

June 15, 2009

The Honorable Edward Kennedy  
Chairman, Senate Health, Education, Labor  
and Pensions Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael Enzi  
Ranking Member, Senate Health, Education, Labor  
and Pensions Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Christopher Dodd  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Judd Gregg  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Kennedy, Enzi, Dodd, Gregg, and Mikulski:

The pharmacy profession, as represented by the organizations listed below, applauds language included in the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee's legislation that would enhance medication use in our health care system.

We are particularly pleased that the Committee recognizes 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.

Specifically, we are supportive of the provision (Section 213) that would provide grants to implement pharmacist-delivered medication management (MTM) services for the treatment of chronic disease. We are also supportive of the Committee's proposal (Section 212) to 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 and we will be conveying our support for these provisions to the other committees engaged in developing health care reform legislation.

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