



August 25, 2016

The Honorable Kevin de León
Senate President pro Tempore
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Increasing Patient Access to Pharmacist Services

Dear Senator de León:

The Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) respectfully requests that you support Assembly Bill 1114 that would make certain pharmacist provided services a covered benefit under the Medi-Cal program. As health care delivery in the United States continues to evolve and the focus increases on an interdisciplinary team approach to patient care, it is critical to recognize the value of pharmacists as health care providers.

AMCP is a national professional association of pharmacists and other health care practitioners who serve society by the application of sound medication management principles and strategies to improve health care for all. The Academy's nearly 8,000 members, with 1,295 living and practicing in California, develop and provide a diversified range of clinical, educational and business management services and strategies on behalf of the more than 200 million Americans covered by a managed care pharmacy benefit.

The high level of education and training pharmacists receive qualifies them as "medication experts". The benefits offered by authorizing pharmacists as patient care providers include improved patient outcomes, increased patient satisfaction, improved access to primary care services, decreased number of drug related adverse events, and a reduction in overall healthcare costs.¹

As pharmacists continue to gain recognition for the value that they bring as members of a health care team, an expanded role for pharmacists will improve patient outcomes and reduce overall health care costs in the Medi-Cal program.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our views and urge you to support Assembly Bill 1114. If you have any questions, you may contact AMCP's California advocacy leader Stephanie Lu, PharmD at stephanie.lu@blueshieldca.com or AMCP's Director of Legislative Affairs, Regina Benjamin, at (703) 683-8416 or rbenjamin@amcp.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Cantrell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Susan A. Cantrell, RPh, CAE
Chief Executive Officer

¹ Isasi, Frederick, and Esther Isasi. "The Expanding Role of Pharmacists in a Transformed Health Care System." *National Governors Association*. NGA Center for Best Practices, 13 Jan. 2015. Web. 24 Aug. 2016.
<<http://www.nga.org/files/live/sites/NGA/files/pdf/2015/1501TheExpandingRoleOfPharmacists.pdf>>.