

January 22, 2015

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
United States House of Representatives
217 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Marino
United States House of Representatives
410 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter Welch
United States House of Representatives
2303 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Judy Chu
United States House of Representatives
1520 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressmen Blackburn, Marino, Welch and Chu:

We, the undersigned organizations – representing pharmaceutical distributors and pharmacies, – would like to express our support for the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2015 (H.R. 471). We appreciate your leadership and commitment to working with the healthcare supply chain and law enforcement to combat the inappropriate use of prescription medicines. Your legislation is a timely and thoughtful approach to addressing the drug abuse epidemic.

Millions of Americans depend on prescription drugs to treat and cure illness, alleviate pain, and improve quality of life. Unfortunately, prescription drug abuse is steadily rising. Federal agencies and private parties in the drug supply chain are working diligently to prevent drug abuse and diversion; however, it is also imperative that patients with legitimate pain are able to obtain their prescriptions without disruption. To that end, we believe the legislation will foster greater collaboration, communication and transparency between industry stakeholders and regulators, leading to more effective efforts to combat abuse while protecting patients.

This legislation will clarify key terminology in the Controlled Substances Act to give registrants a better understanding of their responsibilities under the law. This bill will also allow DEA-registered companies to submit corrective action plans to address any agency concerns, creating a more robust and transparent process to address drug diversion with the intention of curtailing unnecessary supply chain disruptions that affect patient access to needed medications. Importantly, the report to Congress will encourage meaningful dialogue to identify how collaboration between agencies and stakeholders can benefit patients and help prevent the diversion and abuse of controlled substances.

We are committed to being part of the solution to this serious public health challenge, working collaboratively with supply chain partners and government officials to address prescription drug abuse and finding ways to slow this epidemic. We commend you for your leadership on this important issue and we look forward to supporting your efforts to advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

American Pharmacists Association
Healthcare Distribution Management Association
National Association of Chain Drug Stores
National Community Pharmacists Association