



# 2026

## INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY PHARMACY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### **RX ACCESS ACT (H.R. 6400/S. 4106) ENHANCING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN TRICARE**

#### **Background**

Express Scripts, the Cigna-owned pharmacy benefit manager, continues to administer the Tricare pharmacy benefit on behalf of the Department of Defense despite shrinking the pharmacy network by nearly 15,000 pharmacies in 2022, impacting 400,000 Tricare beneficiaries. Adding to the patient disruption, ESI continues to list as still in network many pharmacies that were either terminated or who have voluntarily left the network due to poor contract terms. Despite these egregious errors, ESI has never been penalized or held accountable.

The bid process for the next Tricare contract starts in 2026, and as that gets underway, bipartisan legislation has been introduced in both chambers of Congress to enhance transparency in the Tricare pharmacy program.

#### **Legislation**

The Rx Access Choice, Cost Equity, and Supply Stability (RX ACCESS) Act (H.R. 6400/S. 4106), introduced by Reps. Jen Kiggans (R-Va.), Maggie Goodlander (D-N.H.), Morgan Luttrell (R-Texas), and Chrissy Houlahan (D-Pa.) in the House and Sens. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) and Tim Kaine (D-Va.) in the Senate, would:

- Enhance beneficiary access by expanding the Tricare pharmacy network;
- Provide for fairer reimbursements to pharmacies by requiring a minimum reimbursement of the National Average Drug Acquisition Cost (NADAC) plus the Medicaid fee-for-service dispensing fee; and
- Enhance transparency and accountability in the Tricare pharmacy program by requiring an annual audit of the program.



*Founded in 1898, the National Community Pharmacists Association is the voice for the community pharmacist, representing over 18,900 pharmacies that employ more than 235,000 individuals nationwide. Community pharmacies are rooted in the communities where they are located and are among America's most accessible health care providers. To learn more, visit [www.ncpa.org](http://www.ncpa.org).*