

March 11, 2009

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Subject: Pharmacy Principles for Health Care Reform**

Dear Representative Ryan:

Now that the health care reform hearings are kicking into high gear, the pharmacy groups listed below, representing pharmacy education and all segments of the practice of pharmacy, wanted to reiterate our interest in working with you to reform our nation's health care delivery system. We believe that pharmacists can play an important role in improving quality of care resulting from prescription medication use and controlling costs.

As the nation's third largest health profession, pharmacy has a vital stake in making certain that any changes lead to meaningful improvements in quality, delivery and access to affordable health care. Our organizations came together to develop the enclosed principles to articulate the increased role that pharmacists should undertake in a reformed health care system.

Pharmacists are committed to collaborating with patients and prescribers to help make sure that the best possible health care outcomes result from the use of prescription medications and other health care products. This collaborative model requires an infrastructure that allows pharmacists to provide prescription medications as well as the medication therapy management services that add significant value to medications. To that end, we are pleased that the stimulus package recognized the need for greater pharmacy interconnectivity and provided pharmacies access to health information technology resources.

Many of the current public and private sector programs, such as the one highlighted by General Mills' CEO during last week's White House Health Care Reform Summit, build upon the medical home concept: patients are referred to pharmacists - the medication specialist on the health care team - for medication therapy management services. In addition to these services, pharmacists also offer a wide range of public health education and prevention programs, including disease management, medication adherence, immunization programs and tobacco cessation.

Pharmacist-provided patient care services can improve quality of care, improve management of chronic disease, and reduce overall health care costs. As the upcoming debate on health care reform proceeds, we look forward to working with you to find ways to provide patients access to these services.

Thank you for your interest in the views of the pharmacy community.  
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 Associations,  
National Community Pharmacists Association, National Association of Chain Drug Stores,  
Rite Aid Corporation, Walgreen Co.

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