

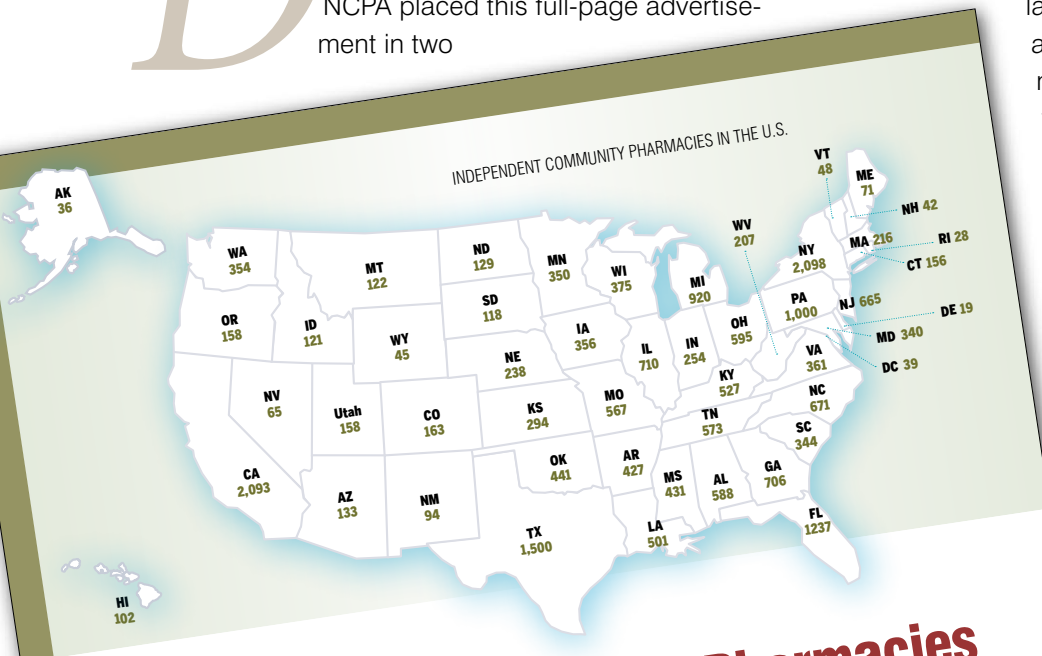


Battling for Fair Medicaid Reimbursement

By Michael F. Conlan

During the height of the congressional health care reform debate in Washington last year, NCPA placed this full-page advertisement in two

influential Capitol Hill publications: *Roll Call* and *Congress Daily*. Both are closely read by lawmakers, administration officials, and other powerbrokers in the nation's capital. Contributions to the NCPA Legislative Defense Fund support the advertising, grassroots, and lobbying efforts by the association to advance the interests of independent community pharmacists and their patients from the White House to Congress to state capitals as it has done for 112 years. **ap**



Michael F. Conlan is editor of *America's Pharmacist*.

Independent Community Pharmacies The Backbone of Medicaid's Drug Benefit

Community pharmacists across America need reasonable reimbursement rates for Medicaid generic drugs to continue serving their patients.

- The average community pharmacy derives virtually all revenue (93%) from prescription sales.
- Medicaid makes up on average anywhere from 15% to more than half of their prescription sales—significantly more than other larger pharmacies.
- Community pharmacies are critical health-care providers—often the **sole local resource** to rural and urban Americans.
- Without equitable reimbursement, many community pharmacies may be **forced to close their doors**. Under current Medicaid law, pharmacists would be paid 36% below what it costs them to purchase generic drugs.



Congress: Preserve access to independent community pharmacies. Please set a fair reimbursement rate for Medicaid generic drugs.



Dispensing nearly half of the nation's retail prescription medicines