



The NCPA Legislative Defense Fund

By Michael F. Conlan

The NCPA Legislative Defense Fund, founded in 1984, is the war chest that funds the association's national and state government affairs and legal activities on behalf of independent community pharmacy. Lobbying Congress, the White House, regulatory agencies, and their state counterparts is a costly proposition. A robust, fully funded government affairs operation is critical to your professional and business success and can cost more than \$2 million per year.



NCPA's efforts on health care reform legislation and the CVS Caremark campaign are prime examples of our government affairs department in action. Our lawsuits on Average Manufacturer Price and Average Wholesale Price cost money, but have also kept money in our pocket.

WHY SHOULD I CONTRIBUTE?

Last year alone the health care industry spent \$396 million—more than any other sector—in its efforts to influence Congress and federal agencies. Millions of dollars also were spent at the state level. NCPA needs a healthy LDF to compete in that arena.

Community pharmacy is subject to pervasive rules and regulations: state pharmacy boards, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Food and Drug Administration to name a few.

Nearly nine out of 10 retail prescriptions now are covered by health insurance plans, most of them administered by pharmacy benefit managers. Half of those prescriptions involve government programs such as Medicare and Medicaid, whose policies, including reimbursement, are influenced by Congress.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

We are fighting the PBM abuses that you and your

patients face daily and protecting your interest in Congress. NCPA is the only group in our nation's capital looking out for the unique needs of independent pharmacies. Government has a huge impact on our profession and our business, and if we don't have a seat at the table, we put both at risk. The PBMs have millions of dollars for well financed and very slick government affairs operations. To help you and your business succeed, we need your support to make your voice heard.

NO LIMITS ON GIVING

Personal and corporate funds are accepted and there are no limits on the amount you can give. Corporate funds may be tax deductible as a business expense under the laws of your state. Ask your accountant.

HOW CAN I CONTRIBUTE?

- Go online to the "Advocacy" section of the NCPA Web site (www.ncpanet.org) for our secure contribution form.
- Write a check, payable to "NCPALDF" at 100 Daingerfield Road, Alexandria, VA 22314.
- Call NCPA with your credit card information toll free at 800-544-7447.
- Fax your completed contribution form to 703-683-3619.

We urge you to select the convenient option of automatic monthly contributions.

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