



December 10, 2024

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
425 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

The Honorable Thom Tillis
United States Senate
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: SUPPORT FROM OUR NATION'S PHARMACISTS FOR "THE REBUILD AMERICA'S
HEALTHCARE SCHOOLS ACT OF 2024"**

Dear Senators Klobuchar and Tillis:

The American Pharmacists Association (APhA) writes on behalf of the nation's over 330,000 pharmacists across the country in support of your introduction of the "Rebuild America's Healthcare Schools Act of 2024" (S.5397, H.R. 10225). Your continuing leadership will go a long way in addressing residency funding, including pharmacy and allied health professional training sponsored by health systems affiliated with schools of pharmacy or providing training in ambulatory settings that has impacted Postgraduate year 1 (PGY1) pharmacy programs across the country.

As you are aware, PGY1 programs are prerequisites for positions in many pharmacy specialties. These programs are vital in the continued education of students interested in advancing their careers in fields such as clinical pharmacogenomics, oncology, or critical care. Unfortunately, recent Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) actions have led to funding disallowances for these programs, which essentially served as clawbacks of Medicare reimbursement. At issue was the lack of transparency and clarity over the cost reporting requirements, which led to the non-compliance of many of these programs and a subsequent denial of funding.

Your legislation, the "Rebuild America's Healthcare Schools Act of 2024" (S.5397, H.R. 10225) does a wonderful job of addressing the inequities these programs faced over the years by clarifying the requirements that hospitals and health systems must meet to receive Medicare reimbursement for operating healthcare residency programs, including pharmacy PGY1 programs. This transparency and clarification will allow residency programs to finally understand the compliance measures expected of them without having to worry about arbitrary disallowances and clawbacks. In addition, the legislation would also require CMS to reimburse pharmacy programs that were unjustly required to pay those clawbacks over the past 6 years. Both of these measures would be very impactful in protecting pharmacy residency programs.

APhA thanks you for efforts and applauds your leadership on this very important issue. Should you have any questions, please contact Doug Huynh, JD, APhA Director of Congressional Affairs, at dhuynh@aphanet.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Baxter". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Michael Baxter
Vice President, Federal Government Affairs