



May 13, 2024

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

Dear Senator Klobuchar

On behalf of our nation's 340,000 pharmacists, I am writing in strong support of your efforts to protect federal funding for allied health worker training programs, such as pharmacy residency programs operated by hospitals. As you know, pharmacy residency programs are vital to the education and growth of the next generation of pharmacists. The Medicare funding provided to these residents furthers their professional growth and allows future pharmacists to play a critical role in patient care.

APhA is the largest association of pharmacists in the United States advancing the entire pharmacy profession. APhA represents pharmacists and pharmacy personnel in all practice settings, including community pharmacies, hospitals, long-term care facilities, specialty pharmacies, community health centers, physician offices, ambulatory clinics, managed care organizations, hospice settings, and government facilities. Our members strive to improve medication use, advance patient care, and enhance public health.

As you know, residency programs across the country have been impacted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) clawbacks on pass-through funding for hospitals for the operation of residency programs. The withholding of funding without clear guidelines as to how to avoid these violations is unconscionable and without merit. This problem is not unique to any one region of the country and has had a negatively profound impact on the training of pharmacy residents throughout the United States. As such, we greatly appreciate your letter asking the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies for language supporting this issue in the upcoming 2025 Fiscal Year Appropriations Act.



Incorporating this language into the 2025 Appropriations bill will assist hospitals and allied professional health residency programs receive the proper guidance from CMS, which is necessary to educate future health care providers.

APhA recognizes that the primary purpose of your efforts is to address clawbacks and Medicare pass-through funding for existing pharmacy residency programs. In the future, APhA is also interested in working with you and other members of Congress to consider expansion of the pharmacy residency training program through Medicare to include support for outpatient specialty care PGY-2 residency training programs (e.g. oncology, psychiatry, ambulatory care) and community-based residency programs pharmacy (CBRP) PGY-1 programs. As our nation's healthcare system continues to transition to primarily an outpatient care model, our residency funding mechanisms have not kept pace with ensuring future generations of pharmacist clinicians are supported in their training. This presents an opportunity to improve policy and funding in support of access to care.

Thank you again for your support of this very important issue. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help. If you need to reach us, please contact Doug Huynh, JD, Director of Congressional Affairs at dhuyh@aphanet.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Michael Hogue', is positioned below the 'Sincerely,' text.

Michael Hogue, PharmD, FAPhA, FNAP, FFIP
CEO, APhA