



January 17, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 91814

Dear Governor Newsom:

The California Pharmacists Association (CPhA) and the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) write to request your office work with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Administration for Strategic Preparedness & Response (ASPR) on activating the [Emergency Prescription Assistance Program \(EPAP\)](#) in Los Angeles.

EPAP provides critical support to individuals without health insurance in federally designated disaster areas. By ensuring access to essential prescription medications, vaccinations, medical supplies, and equipment, EPAP helps individuals meet their immediate health needs during times of crisis. This program is vital in aiding disaster-affected communities, alleviating individual hardships, and reducing strain on the broader healthcare system.

In light of the devastating Los Angeles fires, many patients face significant challenges in accessing essential healthcare and medications. To support the continuity of care for vulnerable populations during this disaster, CPhA and APhA strongly urge your office to promptly collaborate with HHS and ASPR to activate the EPAP.

If there is anything CPhA and APhA can do to support this request, please don't hesitate to contact Susan Bonilla, CPhA Chief Executive Officer by email at sbonilla@cpha.com, and E. Michael Murphy, PharmD, MBA, APhA Senior Advisor for State Government Affairs by email at mmurphy@aphanet.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Bonilla".

Susan Bonilla
Chief Executive Officer
California Pharmacists Association

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Baxter".

Michael Baxter
Vice President, Government Affairs
American Pharmacists Association

About CPhA: Founded in 1869, the CPhA is the largest state association representing the pharmacy profession in all practice settings. These practice settings include community pharmacy (both independent owners and employees working in chain drug stores), hospitals & health-systems, and specialty practices such as compounding, managed care, and long term care. Our mission is to advance the practice of pharmacy for the promotion of health.

About APhA: APhA is the largest association of pharmacists in the United States, advancing the entire pharmacy profession, including 6,530 licensed pharmacists in California. APhA represents pharmacists 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. APhA represents pharmacists and students who practice in numerous settings and provide care to many of your constituents. As the voice of pharmacy, APhA leads the profession and equips members for their role as the medication expert in team-based, patient-centered care. APhA inspires, innovates, and creates opportunities for members and pharmacists worldwide to optimize medication use and health for all.