



April 9, 2025

The Honorable Chairman Jason Smith
House Ways and Means Committee
1139 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: SUPPORT for The Equitable Community Access to Pharmacist Services Act.

Dear Chairman Smith:

We write on behalf of our members and their patients to thank you for your diligent work on the Equitable Community Access to Pharmacist Services (ECAPS) Act and to express our support for including this legislation in the House reconciliation package. This bipartisan legislation enables Medicare beneficiaries to receive testing and preventive treatments for common infectious diseases, as permitted under existing state law. By advancing this legislation as part of the reconciliation package, Congress can ensure pharmacist-provided services are covered, protecting our rural and senior communities.

By conservative estimates, the 350 million clinical interventions provided by pharmacists to approximately 150 million people for common respiratory conditions have averted over 1 million deaths, 8 million hospitalizations, and \$450 billion in health care costs.

Our pharmacist members provide team-based clinical services in both inpatient and outpatient settings. Clinical pharmacists collaborate with physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals to ensure safe and effective medication use, thereby improving patient health outcomes while reducing the workload burdens on other clinicians. They educate patients and caregivers about their medications, monitor drug therapy, and coordinate communication between patients, insurers, and interdisciplinary specialty providers. Pharmacists' management of medication therapy has been shown to improve transitions of care and reduce hospital readmissions. ECAPS recognizes this structure, permitting pharmacists to bill Medicare for services provided independently or in collaboration with other providers, as permitted under state law.

ECAPS would provide payment for essential pharmacist services under Medicare Part B, enabling pharmacists to safeguard American seniors from the threat of influenza, RSV, and other common infectious diseases. Operating within state scope-of-practice laws that already allow for the delivery of select services by pharmacists, this bipartisan legislation will ensure seniors maintain access to essential testing and treatment services for common respiratory diseases.

We urge the inclusion of ECAPS in the reconciliation package and for swift passage of the new language to ensure that rural and senior communities have access to timely and reliable health care and services provided by their trusted local pharmacists.

We thank you for developing this language, which strikes a balance between the needs of Medicare enrollees and the existing framework in the states for pharmacists. We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure Americans have access to the life-saving medications they need. If our organizations can assist your

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office in any way, please contact the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) at fkolb@ashp.org and the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) at dhuyh@aphanet.org.

Sincerely,



Paul W. Abramowitz, PharmD, ScD (Hon), FASHP
Chief Executive Officer
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Michael D. Hogue, PharmD, FAPhA, FNAP, FFIP
Executive Vice President and CEO
APhA

CC: The Honorable Adrian Smith