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September 11, 2009

The Honorable Tom Harkin
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Harkin:

On behalf of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP), I want to congratulate you on becoming Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. I have no doubt that your leadership and experience will be an asset to the HELP Committee as we move toward reforming our nation's health care system.

ASHP is the 35,000-member national professional association that represents pharmacists who practice in hospitals and other components of health care systems. Hospital and health-system pharmacists serve on interdisciplinary patient-care teams, ensuring that the use of medicines is safe, effective, and cost-conscious.

As Vice President for Health Sciences at the University of Iowa and Chairman of the University of Iowa Health System, I appreciated your leadership in helping provide Iowans with first-rate health care. ASHP looks forward to working with you and the other members of the HELP Committee to ensure that all Americans get the health care they deserve, which includes making the best use of their medicines through the care provided by their pharmacists

Sincerely,

Henri R. Manasse, Jr., Ph.D., Sc.D
Executive Vice President and CEO