



January 6, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
235 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) is pleased to see that H.R. 3962, the Affordable Health Care for America Act, includes provisions (Sections 1302, 2528 and 1312) that recognize the value of pharmacists as medication-use experts, and as integral members of the patient-care team. These same provisions are also included in the bill passed by the Senate late last month. ASHP believes these provisions will improve the quality of patient care, reduce costs, and asks that you and Majority Leader Reid include them in the final bill.

ASHP represents pharmacists who practice in hospitals and health-systems. The Society's 35,000 members include pharmacists and pharmacy technicians who practice in a variety of health system settings, including inpatient, outpatient, home care, and long-term-care settings, as well as pharmacy students. Pharmacists in hospitals and health systems are experts in medication use who serve on interdisciplinary patient-care teams.

There are several key provisions in HR 3962 that we support: section 1302 patient centered medical home model, section 2528 medication therapy management services, and section 1312 the independence at home demonstration program. ASHP believes these provisions will reduce adverse medication events, improve health outcomes, and reduce costs by more effectively managing medication use through inclusion of pharmacists' services within the multidisciplinary team based approach. Further, ASHP supports a provision in the Senate bill (HR 3590, section 10328) that would require Medicare Part D plans to offer an annual comprehensive medication review by a licensed pharmacist or qualified provider as part of a medication therapy management plan.

One remaining issue that is a priority for ASHP is pharmacist participation in loan forgiveness programs. As the third largest health profession, ensuring an adequate supply of well-educated and trained pharmacists is critical to meeting the health care needs of patients in health professional needs areas. HR 3962 does allow for pharmacists to participate in loan forgiveness programs (section 2211 frontline health providers). ASHP strongly supports inclusion of this provision in the final health care reform bill.

Finally, ASHP supports the provision in the Senate bill (section 7101) that would extend 340B prescription drug discounts to the hospital inpatient setting. In its current form, the House bill does not contain this provision. ASHP requests that this provision be included in the final bill.

ASHP thanks you for your commitment to reforming our nation's health care system and we look forward to working with you to enact health care reform legislation. In the meantime, if you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Joseph Hill, Director, Federal Legislative Affairs at 301-664-8710, or [jhill@ashp.org](mailto:jhill@ashp.org).

Sincerely,

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

**TOGETHER WE MAKE A GREAT TEAM**

January 6, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Senate Majority Leader  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid:

The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) is pleased to see that H.R. 3590, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, includes provisions (Sections 3502, 3503, 3024 and 10328) that recognize the value of pharmacists as medication-use experts, and as integral members of the patient-care team. These same provisions (with the exception of section 10328) are also included in the bill passed by the House in November. ASHP believes these provisions will improve the quality of patient care, reduce costs, and asks that you and Speaker Pelosi include them in the final bill.

ASHP represents pharmacists who practice in hospitals and health-systems. The Society's 35,000 members include pharmacists and pharmacy technicians who practice in a variety of health system settings, including inpatient, outpatient, home care, and long-term-care settings, as well as pharmacy students. Pharmacists in hospitals and health systems are experts in medication use who serve on interdisciplinary patient-care teams.

There are several key provisions of the bill that we support: section 3502 patient centered medical home model (includes pharmacists on the patient-care team), section 3503 medication therapy management services, section 3024 the independence at home demonstration program, and section 10328 that would require Medicare Part D plans to offer an annual comprehensive medication review by a licensed pharmacist or qualified provider as part of a medication therapy management plan. ASHP believes these provisions will reduce adverse medication events, improve health outcomes, and reduce costs by more effectively managing medication use through inclusion of pharmacists' services within the multidisciplinary team based approach.

One remaining issue that is a priority for ASHP is pharmacist participation in loan forgiveness programs. As the third largest health profession, ensuring an adequate supply of well-educated and trained pharmacists is critical to meeting the health care needs of patients in health professional needs areas. The bill passed by the House (H.R. 3692) does allow for pharmacists to participate in loan forgiveness programs (section 2211 frontline health providers). ASHP respectfully requests that this provision be included in the final health care reform bill.

Finally, ASHP supports the provision in the Senate bill that would extend 340B prescription drug discounts to the hospital inpatient setting. In its current form, the House bill does not contain this provision. ASHP requests that this provision be included in the final bill.

ASHP thanks you for your commitment to reforming our nation's health care system and we look forward to working with you to enact health care reform legislation. In the meantime, if you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Joseph Hill, Director, Federal Legislative Affairs at 301-664-8710, or [jhill@ashp.org](mailto:jhill@ashp.org).

Sincerely,



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

