



7272 Wisconsin Avenue
Bethesda, Maryland 20814
301-657-3000
Fax: 301-664-8877
www.ashp.org

January 26, 2010

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

On behalf of the 35,000 members of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) I am writing to urge you to pass the health care reform legislation crafted last year. Through your leadership, this legislation represents a critical step forward to achieving higher quality, affordable health care. Several of the provisions in both House and Senate bills aim to promote better medication use by recognizing pharmacists as integral members of the patient-care team. ASHP believes these provisions will improve the quality of patient care and reduce costs by enabling pharmacists to play an active role in medication therapy by reducing adverse drug events, avoidable hospital readmissions, and helping patients make the best use of their medicines.

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 hospital and health-system settings, including inpatient, outpatient, home care, and long-term care, as well as pharmacy students. Pharmacists in hospitals and health systems are experts in medication use who serve on interdisciplinary patient-care teams.

The current health reform legislation represents a monumental step forward for our nation's health-care system. The work you have done over the past eighteen months has resulted in a proposal that has aligned almost every stakeholder, from physicians, nurses and pharmacists, to hospitals, unions and patient advocacy groups in support of moving this legislation over its remaining hurdles. This exchange of ideas and input of an unprecedented scale has moved us closer than ever to achieving the goals of expanding access to care, improving quality and addressing costs.

ASHP thanks you for your commitment to reforming our nation's health-care system and we look forward to working with you to ensure Americans receive the highest quality care possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Henri R. Manasse, Jr.', written in a cursive style.

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

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January 26, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman, Finance Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman, HELP Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Rangel
Chairman, Ways and Means Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Chairman, Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable George Miller
Chairman, Education and Labor Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Speaker Pelosi, and Chairmen Baucus, Harkin, Rangel, Waxman, and Miller:

On behalf of the 35,000 members of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) I am writing to continue to urge you to pass the health care reform legislation crafted last year. Through your leadership, this legislation represents a critical step forward to achieving higher quality, affordable health care. Several of the provisions in both House and Senate bills aim to promote better medication use by recognizing pharmacists as integral members of the patient-care team. ASHP believes these provisions will improve the quality of patient care and reduce costs by enabling pharmacists to play an active role in medication therapy by reducing adverse drug events, avoidable hospital readmissions, and helping patients make the best use of their medicines.

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