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August 3, 2011

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
2421 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman McMorris Rodgers:

The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) is pleased to support the 340-B Improvement Act of 2011 (H.R. 2674), and we thank you for your leadership on this issue. This legislation further strengthens the 340-B drug discount program providing care to indigent patients by extending the discount to the inpatient setting. ASHP believes this bill will help safety net providers to continue treating their most vulnerable patient populations while not increasing the financial burden of the federal government. Furthermore, we support repealing the ban on coverage of orphan drugs under 340-B for free standing cancer hospitals.

For more than 60 years, ASHP has helped pharmacists who practice in hospitals and health systems improve medication use and enhance patient safety. The Society's 35,000 members include pharmacists and pharmacy technicians who practice in inpatient, outpatient, home-care, and long-term-care settings, as well as pharmacy students.

ASHP has a longstanding history of support for the 340-B drug discount program, as many of our members practice in hospitals and health-systems that are 340-B eligible and have seen firsthand, the success of this program. At a time when federal budgets are stretched thin, the 340-B program helps maximize federal resources while providing access to life saving medications. Further, the program helps safety net hospitals maintain financial viability which is especially critical for those facilities in rural and underserved areas.

Again, ASHP is supportive of H.R. 2674, and we applaud your efforts to strengthen the 340-B drug discount program. We look forward to working with you to pass this important legislation and continue to build upon the success of the 340-B and other programs administered by the Office of Pharmacy Affairs within the Health Resources and Services Administration. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Joseph Hill, Director, Federal Legislative Affairs at: [jhill@ashp.org](mailto:jhill@ashp.org), or 301-664-8710.

Sincerely,

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

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

**TOGETHER WE MAKE A GREAT TEAM**