

February 1, 2011

The Honorable Jack Reed  
United States Senate  
728 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510



Dear Senator Reed:

The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) supports SB 48, a bill that would enable pharmacists to participate in the loan forgiveness program under the National Health Service Corps (NHSC). Further, we thank you for cosponsoring this important bill as it will help patients gain access to the services of a pharmacist. 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.

Pharmacists are the third largest health care provider in the United States, working collaboratively with physicians and nurses to provide the best patient care and outcomes. The pharmacist is the practitioner patients see the most, and is one of the most trusted of all health care professionals. Like nursing and other health care professions, there is a shortage of pharmacists. The shortage is particularly burdensome in rural areas, where access to needed care can be limited.

This burden could be alleviated by allowing pharmacists to participate in the National Health Service Corps. The program has thus far been successful in attracting physicians and nurses to practice in rural or underserved areas. ASHP believes that by expanding NHSC to include pharmacists, Congress will help ensure that patients achieve safer and more effective medication therapy outcomes through enhanced access to the patient care services of pharmacists.

Further, today's pharmacy students graduate with a doctor of pharmacy degree that takes at least 6-years to complete. By allowing pharmacists to take part in the NHSC loan forgiveness program, the six year commitment will be less financially burdensome, and patients will benefit from having access to pharmacists who help them achieve safe and effective outcomes from medication use.

If you have any questions, please feel free to have your staff contact Joseph Hill, ASHP Director of Federal Legislative Affairs at 301-664-8710 or by e-mail at [jhill@ashp.org](mailto:jhill@ashp.org).

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 Chief Executive Officer



February 1, 2011

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye  
United States Senate  
722 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Inouye:

The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) supports SB 48, a bill that would enable pharmacists to participate in the loan forgiveness program under the National Health Service Corps (NHSC). Further, we thank you for introducing this important bill as it will help patients gain access to the services of a pharmacist. 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.

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Congress can help alleviate this burden by allowing pharmacists to participate in the National Health Service Corps. The NHSC offers loan forgiveness to health care professionals who agree to practice in rural or underserved urban areas. The program has thus far been successful in attracting physicians and nurses to practice in rural or underserved areas. ASHP believes that by expanding NHSC to include pharmacists, Congress will help ensure that patients achieve safer and more effective medication therapy outcomes through enhanced access to the patient care services of pharmacists. Further, today's pharmacy students graduate with a doctor of pharmacy degree that takes at least 6-years to complete.. By allowing pharmacists to take part in the NHSC loan forgiveness program, the six year commitment will be less financially burdensome, and patients will benefit from having access to pharmacists who help them achieve safe and effective outcomes from medication use.

It is for these reasons that we ask you to include pharmacists in the NHSC during the program's reauthorization. If you have any questions, please feel free to have your staff

contact Joseph Hill, ASHP Director of Federal Legislative Affairs at 301-664-8710 or by e-mail at [jhill@ashp.org](mailto:jhill@ashp.org).

Sincerely,

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



February 1, 2011

The Honorable Mark Begich  
United States Senate  
144 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Begich:

The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) supports SB 48, a bill that would enable pharmacists to participate in the loan forgiveness program under the National Health Service Corps (NHSC). Further, we thank you for cosponsoring this important bill as it will help patients gain access to the services of a pharmacist.

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