May 25, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable G.K. Butterfield
2080 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bob Casey
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable David McKinley
2239 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Support for the Pharmacy and Medically Underserved Areas Enhancement Act

Dear Senators Grassley, Casey, and Brown, Representatives Butterfield and McKinley:

The undersigned organizations thank you for your leadership and applaud the introduction of the Pharmacy and Medically Underserved Areas Enhancement Act (H.R. 2759/S.1362). Your legislation will ensure that Medicare beneficiaries, our nation’s seniors, and Americans in underserved areas are no longer denied access to healthcare services available from pharmacists.

States are increasingly recognizing the ability of pharmacists to improve access to services like point-of-care testing, access to urgently needed medications such as pre-and post-exposure prophylaxis for HIV, management of complex medication regimens, and smoking cessation services. This has never been truer than during our current public health emergency, when states are asking pharmacists to provide a range of important services including COVID-19 testing, and vaccinations against COVID-19 and other diseases. In rural and underserved communities, pharmacists may be the only accessible healthcare provider.

Despite state laws allowing patients to access healthcare services from their pharmacist, Medicare Part B does not cover these services when they are provided to Medicare beneficiaries. As a result, beneficiaries’ access to the healthcare provider with the most medication-related education and training is severely restricted. Your bill would increase the health of patients and correct this restriction on access to care for Medicare beneficiaries.

The bill does not expand pharmacists’ scope of practice in any state. Rather, it allows pharmacists to provide Medicare beneficiaries with the same level of care that they are licensed to provide to other patients.

We thank you for your leadership on ensuring Medicare beneficiaries have access to pharmacist services and the introduction of the Pharmacy and Medically Underserved Areas Enhancement Act. We look forward to supporting your efforts to advance this important legislation to improve access to care for our nation’s Medicare beneficiaries.

Sincerely,
Pharmacist Professional Associations
Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy
Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education
Alabama Pharmacy Association
Alabama Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Alaska Pharmacists Association
Alaska Pharmacists Association-Academy of Health-System Pharmacy
Alliance for Pharmacy Compounding
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American College of Apothecaries
American Pharmacists Association
American Society of Consultant Pharmacists
Arizona Pharmacy Association
Arizona Pharmacy Association Health-Systems Academy (Arizona Pharmacy Association)
Arkansas Association of Health-System Pharmacists
Arkansas Pharmacists Association
ASHP (American Society of Health-System Pharmacists)
California Pharmacists Association
California Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Colegio de Farmacéuticos de Puerto Rico
College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists
Colorado Pharmacists Society, Academy of Health-System Pharmacists
Connecticut Pharmacists Association
Connecticut Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Delaware Pharmacists Society
Delaware Society of Health-System Pharmacists
FMI – The Food Industry Association
Florida Pharmacy Association
Florida Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Georgia Pharmacy Association
Georgia Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Hawaii Academy of Health-System Pharmacists
Hawaii Pharmacists Association
Healthcare Leadership Council
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association
Idaho Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Idaho State Pharmacy Association
Illinois Council of Health-System Pharmacists
Illinois Pharmacists Association
Indiana Pharmacists Association
Iowa Pharmacy Association
Kansas Council of Health-System Pharmacy
Kansas Pharmacists Association
Kentucky Pharmacists Association
Kentucky Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Louisiana Pharmacists Association
Louisiana Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Maine Pharmacy Association
Maine Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Maryland Pharmacists Association

Patient and Provider Organizations
Alabama Rural Health Association
Anticoagulation Forum
Arizona Rural Health Association
Arkansas Rural Health Association
The Association of Community Cancer Centers
Colorado Rural Health Association
Hawaii State Rural Health Association
Idaho Rural Health Association
Illinois Rural Health Association
Indiana Rural Health Association
Iowa Rural Health Association
Kansas Rural Health Association
Louisiana Rural Health Association
Maryland Rural Health Association
Minnesota Rural Health Association
Mississippi Rural Health Association
Missouri Rural Health Association
Montana Rural Health Association
National Center for Farmworker Health
National Center for Frontier Communities
National Consumers League
National Rural Health Association
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable
Nebraska Rural Health Association
New England Rural Health Roundtable
Ohio Rural Health Association
Oregon Rural Health Association
Pennsylvania Rural Health Association
Rural Health Association of Oklahoma
Tennessee Rural Health Association
Virginia Rural Health Association
Washington Rural Health Association

Business Community
Amerisource Bergen
Balls Food Stores (Balls Price Chopper, Hen House & Sun Fresh Pharmacies)
Cardinal Health
Discount Drug Mart
GRX Holdings
Hartig Drug Company
Kroger Health
Lewis Drug
McKesson
Nucara Pharmacy
Omnicell
Thifty White Pharmacy
Wegmans Food Markets
South Carolina Society of Health-System Pharmacists
South Dakota Pharmacists Association
South Dakota Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Tennessee Pharmacists Association
Tennessee Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Texas Pharmacy Association
Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Utah Pharmacy Association
Utah Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Vermont Pharmacists Association
Vermont Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Virginia Pharmacists Association
Virginia Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Washington DC Pharmacy Association
Washington Metropolitan Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Washington State Pharmacy Association
Washington State Pharmacy Association Health-Systems Academy
West Virginia Pharmacists Association
West Virginia Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Wyoming Pharmacy Association
Wyoming Society of Health-System Pharmacy