

April 14, 2020

The Honorable Charles Schumer
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

The ASHP (American Society of Health-System Pharmacists), the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), and the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) applaud the recent introduction of legislation to boost payment for frontline workers against the current COVID-19 pandemic, known as the “Heroes Fund.” We thank you for recognizing pharmacists as essential members of the healthcare team and a cornerstone of New York’s healthcare system, and for including them in this bill.

As you know, pharmacists receive extensive medication and health-related education. Many pursue post-graduate residencies, advanced training, and board certification in clinical specialties that are fundamental to caring for patients during this pandemic, including immunizations, medication management, infectious diseases, critical care, and emergency medicine. As members of interprofessional healthcare teams, pharmacists are providing a broad range of patient care services during the COVID-19 crisis, from directly caring for mechanically ventilated patients in critical care settings, to caring for non-COVID patients, to providing point-of-care testing and medication management to patients in community pharmacy settings.

We appreciate you recognizing pharmacists as providers of essential patient care services and ask that you support their role as healthcare professionals and valued members of the healthcare team who continue to put their patients’ health before their own during this pandemic. We know you have supported improved access to patient care provided by pharmacists, and we thank you for your continued advocacy for patient access to pharmacist services.

We look forward to working with you to pass your Heroes Fund legislation into law to aid pharmacists and other essential workers.

Thank you again for your support for improved access to pharmacist services for patients, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

ASHP (American Society of Health-System Pharmacists)

American Pharmacists Association (APhA)

National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA)