



September 14, 2016

The Honorable Kurt Schrader
U.S. House of Representatives
2431 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. Schrader,

On behalf of ASHP (American Society of Health-System Pharmacists), I am writing in support of H.R. 5813, the Overtime Reform and Enhancement Act. ASHP supports this bill and believes it will help alleviate the concerns of hospitals and other care sites that offer postdoctoral training, such as postgraduate year 1 and year 2 pharmacy residencies. Pharmacy residency training programs provide essential hands-on training in specialty areas such as oncology, infectious diseases, cardiology, psychiatry, pediatrics, geriatrics, emergency medicine, and a host of other general and specialized areas.

ASHP is the national professional organization whose more than 43,000 members include pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and student pharmacists who provide patient care services in hospitals, health systems, and ambulatory clinics. For over 70 years, ASHP has been at the forefront of efforts to improve medication use and enhance patient safety.

In comments submitted to the Department of Labor, ASHP specifically asked for the department to be more flexible in terms of implementation of the salary adjustments and to take a more incremental approach. Given the fiscal pressures on our nation's hospitals and health systems, ASHP is concerned that immediate implementation of the rule will jeopardize a hospital's ability to offer this crucial postdoctoral training, and may result in fewer residency opportunities for new pharmacy graduates. H.R. 5813 would spread implementation of the new pay adjustment over a three-year period through a series of incremental increases. ASHP believes this legislation strikes the right balance between the need to update the pay scale and the ability for hospitals to comply without jeopardizing essential patient care training.

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ASHP is pleased to see this bipartisan legislation, and we applaud you for your leadership on this issue. Additionally, we look forward to working with you and congressional members of both parties to advance the legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kasey K. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Kasey K. Thompson, Pharm.D., M.S., MBA
Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice President