

November 15, 2024

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
H-204 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader Schumer and McConnell:

As the organizations representing our nation's over 300,000 pharmacists at all sites of care and our millions of patients in every congressional district and state, **we are writing to thank you for your continued support and to request the inclusion of H.R. 1770/S. 2477, the [Equitable Community Access to Pharmacist Services Act \(ECAPS\)](#) in any potential end-of-year legislative package this year.**

As you know, ECAPS has strong bipartisan support with 28 bipartisan cosponsors on S. 2477, including 7 members of the majority and 4 members of the minority on the Senate Finance Committee. The House version, H.R. 1770, has 145 cosponsors, including 18 of the 25 members of the majority and 8 of the minority members of the House Ways and Means Committee. ECAPS is also supported by more than [200 groups](#) representing patients, seniors, and rural Americans, [every state pharmacist and pharmacy organization](#), and [113 pharmacy Deans](#) from all over the country—many in committee members' congressional districts.

ECAPS is necessary to maintain access to lower-cost pharmacist-provided test, treatment, and immunization services for common respiratory conditions to one of our nation's most vulnerable populations, our seniors, particularly in rural and medically underserved areas who have come to depend on pharmacists to access critical care and services where no other options often exist.

ECAPS also supports small businesses and helps local community pharmacies keep their doors open to many rural and underserved communities who desperately need access to these health care services. Nine in 10 Americans live within 5 miles of a pharmacy, and patients visit their community pharmacist approximately twice as frequently as any other part of the health care system. Studies have shown that federal and state governments rely on pharmacists as a vital front line of our nation's public health infrastructure, which has [saved](#) millions of lives and billions of taxpayer dollars.

Pharmacists provide these services [under state laws](#) and receive reimbursement under many Medicaid programs and private insurers, but not Medicare. This is a glaring hole in our nation's primary care system. ECAPS would also ensure Medicare will cover immunizations provided by pharmacists under law, rather than relying on regulatory workarounds that are not codified under federal law.

Action is necessary to protect seniors' access to pharmacist-provided primary care services and keep our nation's pharmacies open. As you know losing a pharmacy is a traumatic experience for a community. [Once lost](#), those communities never get that local pharmacy back. We urge you to act to include ECAPS in any end-of-year legislative package. The health and well-being of one of our nation's most vulnerable populations depends on it.

Sincerely,

American Pharmacists Association (APhA)
Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP)
Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACCP)
American College of Apothecaries (ACA)
American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP)
American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP)
American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)
American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists (AAPP)
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacists Association (HOPA)
National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations (NASPA)
National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP)
National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS)
National Association of Specialty Pharmacy (NASP)
National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA)
National Pharmaceutical Association (NPhA)
Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists (SIDP)
Alabama Pharmacy Association (APA)
Alabama Society of Health-System Pharmacists, Inc (ASHP)
Alaska Pharmacists Association (AKPhA)
Arizona Pharmacy Association (AzPA)
Arkansas Association of Health-System Pharmacists (APA)
Arkansas Pharmacists Association (APA)
California Pharmacists Association (CPhA)
California Society of Health-System Pharmacists (CSHP)
Colorado Pharmacists Society (CPS)
Connecticut Pharmacists Association (CPA)
Connecticut Society of Health-System Pharmacists (CSHP)
Delaware Pharmacists Society (DPS)
Delaware Society of Health-System Pharmacists (DSHP)
Florida Pharmacy Association (FPA)
Florida Society of Health-System Pharmacists (FSHP)
Georgia Pharmacy Association (GPhA)
Georgia Society of Health-System Pharmacists (GSHP)
Hawaii Pharmacists Association (HPhA)
Idaho State Pharmacy Association (ISPA)
Idaho Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ISHP)
Illinois Council of Health-System Pharmacists (ICHSP)
Illinois Pharmacists Association (IPhA)
Indiana Pharmacist Association (IPA)
Indiana Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ISHP)
Iowa Pharmacy Association (IPA)
Kansas Pharmacists Association (KPhA)
Kansas Council of Health-System Pharmacy (KCHP)
Kentucky Pharmacists Association (KPhA)
Kentucky Society of Health-System Pharmacists (KSHA)
Louisiana Society of Health-System Pharmacists (LSHP)
Maine Pharmacy Association (MPA)
Maine Society of Health System Pharmacists (MSHP)

Maryland Pharmacists Association (MPhA)
Maryland Society of Health-System Pharmacy (MSHP)
Massachusetts Pharmacists Association (MPhA)
Massachusetts Society of Health-System Pharmacists (MSHP)
Michigan Pharmacists Association (MPA)
Michigan Society of Health-System Pharmacists (MSHP)
Minnesota Pharmacists Association (MPhA)
Minnesota Society of Health-System Pharmacists (MSHP)
Mississippi Pharmacists Association (MPhA)
Mississippi Society of Health System Pharmacists (MSHP)
Missouri Pharmacy Association (MPA)
Missouri Society of Health-System Pharmacists (MSHP)
Montana Pharmacy Association (MPA)
Nebraska Pharmacists Association (NPA)
Nevada Pharmacy Alliance (NPA)
Nevada Society of Health Systems Pharmacists (NVSHP)
New Hampshire Society of Health-System Pharmacists (NHSHP)
New Jersey Pharmacists Association (NJPhA)
New Jersey Society of Health-System Pharmacists (NJSHP)
New Mexico Pharmacists Association (NMPPhA)
New Mexico Society of Health-System Pharmacists (NMSHP)
New York State Council of Health-System Pharmacists (NYSCHP)
North Carolina Association of Pharmacists (NCAP)
North Dakota Pharmacists Association (NDPhA)
North Dakota Society of Health-System Pharmacists (NDSHP)
Ohio Pharmacists Association (OPA)
Ohio Society of Health-System Pharmacy (OSHP)
Oklahoma Pharmacists Association (OPhA)
Oklahoma Society of Health-System Pharmacists (OSHP)
Oregon Society of Health-System Pharmacists (OSHP)
Oregon State Pharmacy Association (OSPA)
Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association (PPA)
Pennsylvania Society of Health-System Pharmacists (PSHP)
Colegio De Farmaceuticos De Puerto Rico (CFPR)
Pharmacists Society of the State of New York (PSSNY)
Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin (PSW)
Rhode Island Pharmacists Association (RIPA)
Rhode Island Society of Health-System Pharmacists (RISHP)
South Carolina Pharmacy Association (SCPhA)
South Carolina Society of Health System Pharmacists (SCSHP)
South Dakota Pharmacists Association (SDPhA)
South Dakota Society of Health-System Pharmacists (SDSHP)
Tennessee Pharmacists Association (TPA)
Texas Pharmacy Association (TPA)
Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists (TSHP)
Utah Pharmacy Association (UPhA)
Utah Society of Health-System Pharmacists (USHP)
Vermont Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists (VTSHP)
Vermont Pharmacists Association (VPA)
Virginia Pharmacists Association (VPhA)
Virginia Society of Health-System Pharmacists (VSHP)

Washington Metropolitan Society of Health-System Pharmacists (WMSHP)
Washington State Pharmacy Association (WSPA)
West Virginia Pharmacists Association (WVPA)
West Virginia Society of Health System Pharmacists (WVSHP)
Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin (PSW)
Wyoming Pharmacy Association (WPhA)
Wyoming Society of Health System Pharmacy (WYSHP)

cc:

Sen. Ron Wyden
Sen. Mike Crapo
Sen. John Thune
Sen. Mark Warner
Sen. Sherrod Brown
Sen. Tim Kaine
Sen. Amy Klobuchar
Sen. Mike Rounds
Sen. Steve Daines
Sen. Markwayne Mullin
Sen. Tammy Duckworth
Sen. Kevin Cramer
Sen. Jon Tester
Sen. Jerry Moran
Sen. Susan Collins
Sen. Gary Peters
Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto
Sen. Shelley Moore Capito
Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse
Sen. Chris Coons
Sen. Lisa Murkowski
Sen. Peter Welch
Sen. James Lankford
Sen. Martin Heinrich
Sen. Dan Sullivan
Sen. Margaret Hassan
Sen. Tom Tillis
Sen. Elizabeth Warren
Sen. Michael Bennet
Sen. Deb Fischer
Sen. Jeanne Shaheen