

Request for Signatures for Letter Urging President Biden to Utilize Federal Retail Pharmacy Program to Administer COVID-19 Vaccine

Deadline: Tuesday, March 30th COB

Contact: Office of U.S. Representative Vicente Gonzalez (D-TX)

Dear Mr. President:

We salute your unwavering leadership that has restored trust in America and the Administration's comprehensive national strategy to beat the COVID-19 pandemic. We remain committed to work with you and Congress to overcome pandemic challenges and to advance the health and prosperity of all Americans.

It gives us renewed hope to learn that more COVID-19 vaccine will soon be available and that all Americans will have access soon. To successfully achieve this goal, we must reach Americans where they live. You already have recognized the importance of leveraging retail pharmacies, including traditional pharmacies, grocery and mass merchants, in allowing individuals to stay in their local neighborhoods when scheduling a vaccination appointment. Retail pharmacies are particularly well suited and prepared to assist with equitable distribution and administration - including people of races and ethnicities most severely affected by healthcare disparities and including rural communities.

We applaud the early launch of the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program in mid-February. Given the overwhelming positive response and demand from our constituents, we encourage you to expand this program, including further increasing the allocation of vaccines to the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program. Patients are familiar with and comfortable obtaining their vaccinations from their local pharmacies. Retail pharmacies have the capacity to provide millions of vaccinations per week, dramatically increasing the number of Americans who are vaccinated in a short period of time.

As the Administration continues its critical pandemic work, we ask that you leverage community pharmacies as viable and sustainable vaccination access options for all Americans.

With eyes on the future, we commend your Administration on its achievements, and we dedicate ourselves to work alongside you to rescue America from this pandemic.

Sincerely,