



September 27, 2013

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Harkin, Ranking Member Alexander, Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Waxman:

I am writing to congratulate you on the agreement reached on comprehensive supply chain and compounding legislation. You should be commended for your strong efforts to ensure the health and safety of the American public.

Please know that we support the agreement, which we believe will help guarantee patient safety through a more secure supply chain and appropriate and improved oversight of compounding activities. We believe that the reforms contained within the legislation meet the overarching goal of protecting patients while allowing chain pharmacies to operate effectively and efficiently in dispensing needed medications.

We are pleased that the bill establishes one, national standard for supply chain regulation, as a patchwork of state laws and regulations would be unworkable. Chain pharmacy has made significant investments to ensure that the U.S. pharmaceutical distribution system is one of the safest in the world and your legislation will only improve and strengthen the process for all stakeholders.

The agreement's clarification and additional regulatory track for sterile compounding is a large step in helping avoid tragedies such as last year's national meningitis outbreak. At the same time, we appreciate the agreement's protection of traditional compounding practices largely performed by retail pharmacists.

Thank you again for your hard work and thoughtful consideration that went into this landmark agreement. We will continue to support you in your efforts, through implementation of this legislation, to improve protections for patients.

Sincerely,

Steven C. Anderson, IOM, CAE
President and Chief Executive Officer