

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

July 2, 2014

The Honorable Fred Upton
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Diana DeGette
2368 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: NACDS Support for the 21st Century Cures Initiative

Dear Chairman Upton and Representative DeGette:

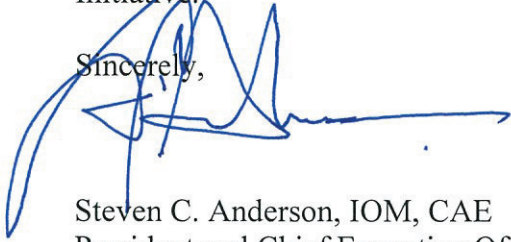
On behalf of the National Association of Chain Drugs Stores (NACDS), we are writing to provide our support for the mission of the 21st Century Cures Initiative to accelerate the discovery, development and delivery process of new drug treatments for patients. NACDS believes that our members, as the face of neighborhood healthcare, can play an important role in the delivery of new lifesaving drug treatments that result from the 21st Century Cures Initiative.

NACDS represents traditional drug stores and supermarkets and mass merchants with pharmacies. Chains operate more than 40,000 pharmacies, and NACDS' 125 chain member companies include regional chains, with a minimum of four stores, and national companies. Chains employ more than 3.8 million individuals, including 175,000 pharmacists. They fill over 2.7 billion prescriptions yearly, and help patients use medicines correctly and safely, while offering innovative services that improve patient health and healthcare affordability. NACDS members also include more than 800 supplier partners and nearly 40 international members representing 13 countries. For more information, visit www.NACDS.org.

NACDS member pharmacies play a leading role in expanding patient access to care and treatment, which positions our members to be key players in dispensing new drugs, as well as providing new services that include emerging cures. Community pharmacy's potential key role in delivering new drug treatments is highlighted by the fact that pharmacies are best known for their commitment to medication safety and effectiveness—providing accurate prescriptions, helping patients take medications as prescribed and safely, and advising patients on potential drug interactions. Within the context of the 21st Century Cures Initiative, community pharmacy's value is amplified through the growing efforts of the industry to provide health education and disease state testing and management. Through personal interactions with patients and face-to-face consultations, pharmacies are helping to shape the healthcare delivery system of tomorrow—in partnership with doctors, nurses, and others. It is important that pharmacies be a part of the 21st Century Cures Initiative because pharmacists rank consistently among the most trusted professionals, and among the most approachable and accessible in healthcare.

In light of chain pharmacies' leadership in community healthcare, our primary role in delivering new drug treatments, and commitment to safety and effectiveness, we look forward to helping you develop policy and legislative ideas to ensure the success of the 21st Century Cures Initiative. Our members stand ready to assist in the evolution of the drug delivery system as a platform for new treatment discovery and development. We look forward to working with you to successfully implement the 21st Century Cures Initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Steven C. Anderson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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