

May 3, 2025

The Honorable Bob Ferguson
Governor, State of Washington
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: Veto Section 201 of HB 2081

Dear Governor Ferguson,

On behalf of the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS), representing national and regional pharmacy chains across Washington, we urge you to **veto Section 201 of House Bill 2081 due to its detrimental impact on pharmacy operations and patient care.**

Chain pharmacies are a cornerstone of Washington's healthcare system, providing critical access to medications, vaccinations, and essential health services. This work relies on a stable and cost-effective pharmaceutical supply chain, which the proposed surcharge threatens, increasing costs that will ultimately be passed on to patients.

Pharmaceutical wholesalers, operating on margins often below 1%, play a key role in ensuring medication availability. Imposing additional financial pressure would disrupt pharmacy operations and raise out-of-pocket costs for patients, many of whom are already struggling with rising healthcare expenses.

This policy disproportionately targets critical sectors of the pharmaceutical industry while exempting others, such as manufacturing, petroleum, timber, and tech. This sets a troubling precedent, placing an undue burden on a sector critical to public health.

NACDS strongly urges you to veto Section 201 to ensure the continued affordability and sustainability of pharmacy services across the state. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact NACDS' Mary Staples at Mstaples@nacds.org.

Sincerely,



Steven C. Anderson, FASAE, CAE, IOM
President and Chief Executive Officer
National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS)

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NACDS represents traditional drug stores, supermarkets, and mass merchants with pharmacies. Chains operate nearly 40,000 pharmacies, and NACDS' chain member companies include regional chains, with a minimum of four stores, and national companies. Chains employ nearly 3 million individuals, including 155,000 pharmacists. They fill over 3 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 900 supplier partners and over 70 international members representing 21 countries. Please visit NACDS.org.