



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CHAIN DRUG STORES

May 27, 2014

The Honorable Joe Pitts
House Energy and Commerce Committee
Chairman, Health Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
House Energy and Commerce Committee
Ranking Member, Health Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pitts and Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS), I am writing to express our support for H.R. 4709, legislation that would promote a comprehensive, consistent, and targeted approach to preventing prescription drug diversion and abuse in the United States.

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 and the chain pharmacy industry are committed to partnering with policymakers to develop viable strategies to prevent prescription drug diversion and abuse. To this end, we support policies that empower law enforcement to protect Americans against the dangers of prescription drug diversion and abuse while maintaining legitimate patient access to needed medications. This important legislation would foster the development of such policies by directing the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to collaborate with the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Office of National Drug Control Policy to assess how patient access to medications could be adversely affected by federal and state law enforcement activities, and to identify how collaboration between agencies and stakeholders can benefit patients and prevent diversion and abuse of prescription drugs. Moreover, this legislation would require HHS to consult with patient and provider groups, including pharmacies, among other stakeholders. We appreciate the recognition of pharmacies as critical stakeholders in efforts to prevent prescription drug diversion and abuse.

NACDS thanks the Subcommittee for considering our viewpoints related to efforts to curbing prescription drug diversion and abuse. We are committed to continuing to work with Congress and other policymakers to promote the health and welfare of our patients, as well as all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven C. Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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