

# NewsRelease

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## **NACDS Lauds Seven-Day Prescription Bill to Mitigate Opioid Abuse**

***Bill would help prevent addiction and abuse, and help prevent opioids from falling into the wrong hands***

**Arlington, Va.**—The National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) today welcomed the introduction of legislation that would limit to a seven-day supply the initial prescriptions of opioids for acute pain – a move that is consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) guidelines for prescribing opioids.

U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner (R-CO) announced the introduction of the legislation, the *John S. McCain Opioid Addiction Prevention Act* (S. 724), in a [press release](#) that quotes NACDS President & CEO Steven C. Anderson, IOM, CAE:

“The seven-day limit for initial acute-pain opioid prescriptions is consistent with pharmacists’ recommendations from the front-lines of care, their collaboration with law enforcement, and the needs of chronic pain sufferers. Six-in-10 Americans support this measure, with only two-in-10 indicating opposition, according to a January 2019 Morning Consult poll commissioned by NACDS. This bill will help prevent addiction and help prevent unused medications from falling into the wrong hands. Our support reflects pharmacies’ longstanding commitment to serve as part of the solution.”

NACDS noted that the opinion research reflects consistent support for this strategic approach across political ideologies, and that support is particularly strong among seniors. Further, seven-in-10 voters support “advancing policies that leverage pharmacies’ role as working partners for stronger and safer communities – such as working to address the opioid-abuse epidemic.”

CDC [notes](#) that, for acute pain, “three days or less will often be sufficient; more than seven days will rarely be needed.”

The bill is consistent with one of NACDS’ priority public policy [recommendations](#) to help further address the opioid abuse epidemic. NACDS’ recommendations relate to initial-prescription limits for acute pain; prescription drug monitoring plans (PDMP); drug disposal; and mandatory electronic prescribing.

The legislation would build on the *SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act* (H.R. 6), enacted in 2018, which is consistent with all of NACDS’ recommendations and which

was particularly helpful in requiring electronic prescribing for Schedule II through V controlled substances prescriptions covered under Medicare Part D to help prevent fraud, abuse and waste – with limited exceptions to ensure patient access.

The legislation also is consistent with the White House’s 2019 National Drug Control Strategy, which NACDS [welcomed](#) in February.

In addition to advancing its public policy recommendations, NACDS and pharmacies maintain longstanding and ongoing initiatives to prevent opioid abuse, including compliance programs; advancing e-prescribing; drug disposal; patient education; security initiatives; fostering naloxone access; stopping illegal online drug-sellers and rogue clinics; and more.

NACDS’ [Chain Pharmacy Community Engagement Report](#) indicates that opioid abuse prevention stands as one of the top priorities for NACDS members among their community engagement initiatives.

***Editor’s Note:*** *State-specific and Congressional-District-specific opinion research data are available on an [NACDS dashboard](#).*

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*NACDS represents traditional drug stores, supermarkets and mass merchants with pharmacies. Chains operate over 40,000 pharmacies, and NACDS’ over 80 chain member companies include regional chains, with a minimum of four stores, and national companies. Chains employ nearly 3 million individuals, including 157,000 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](#).*

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