



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
CHAIN DRUG STORES

# NewsRelease

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## **NACDS Commends Kentucky E-prescribing Law as Part of Opioid Abuse Prevention Solution**

***Sixty-two percent of Kentucky voters support e-prescribing requirement as a fraud and abuse prevention strategy***

**Arlington, Va.**—The National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) today commended the enactment of an electronic prescribing bill (HB 342) that would require the vast majority of prescriptions for controlled substances, including opioids, to be submitted electronically, which will help in the fight against opioid abuse. Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin (R) signed the bill into law March 26, which will become effective January 1, 2021.

NACDS recognized the leadership of Rep. Steve Sheldon (R), a pharmacist and sponsor of the House bill; House Health and Family Services Chair Kim Moser (R); and Senate Health and Welfare Chair Ralph Alvarado (R) in advancing the legislation. NACDS also recognized the Kentucky Retail Federation for its work in advocating for the bill.

Electronic prescribing enjoys popular and nonpartisan support in the state as a strategy to help prevent opioid abuse. A January 2019 [survey](#), conducted by Morning Consult and commissioned by NACDS, found that 62 percent of Kentucky registered voters support rules that all prescriptions must be handled electronically, rather than by paper or fax, to reduce the likelihood of fraud and abuse. Only 19 percent indicated opposition.

NACDS President and CEO Steven C. Anderson, IOM, CAE, said: “This legislation is an important part of a wide-ranging and effective approach to protecting families and communities. Electronic prescribing increases security and curbs waste, fraud and abuse.” He added, “Sixteen states now have enacted e-prescribing legislation as part of the opioid-abuse solution, and we appreciate Kentucky’s proactive response in advancing this bill which will help address this critical issue.”

President Trump in 2018 signed into law federal legislation—the *SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act*—which includes provisions of the NACDS-backed *Every Prescription Conveyed Securely Act*. The new federal law requires 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.

NACDS has been instrumental in advancing the use of electronic prescribing as a safeguard and was on the leading edge of working with the Drug Enforcement Administration to allow electronic prescribing of controlled substances. Until 2010, it was not allowed.

The legislation is consistent with NACDS' [policy recommendations](#) to help address the opioid-abuse epidemic. These recommendations reflect pharmacists' firsthand experiences on the frontlines of care, as well as extensive collaboration with law enforcement and health professionals on the complex issue of opioid-abuse prevention.

In addition to e-prescribing, NACDS' recommendations involve drug disposal, prescription drug monitoring plans, and a seven-day supply limit on the first prescription of an opioid for a patient's acute – or temporary – pain.

The recommendations parallel consistent and ongoing pharmacy strategies to prevent opioid abuse, including compliance programs; pioneering e-prescribing; drug disposal; patient education; security initiatives; fostering naloxone access; stopping illegal online drug-sellers and rogue clinics; and more.

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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](http://NACDS.org).*

***Pharmacies. The face of neighborhood healthcare.***