

Steven C. Anderson, IOM, CAE

President & Chief Executive Officer

January 20, 2015

The Honorable Tom Marino
410 Cannon House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Marino:

On behalf of the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS), I am writing to express our support for the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2015. We appreciate your leadership in developing viable and effective strategies to prevent prescription drug diversion and abuse. As the face of neighborhood healthcare, chain pharmacy is committed to meeting the needs of our patients, while also working to combat the illegal use of prescription drugs.

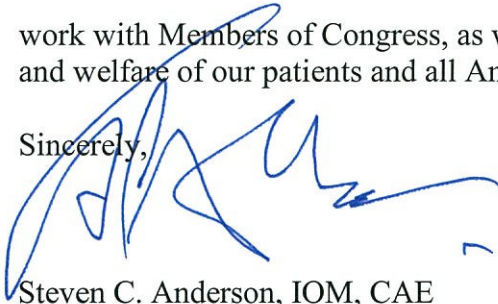
NACDS represents traditional drug stores and supermarkets and mass merchants with pharmacies. Chains operate more than 40,000 pharmacies, and NACDS' 125 chain member companies include regional chains, with a minimum of four stores, and national companies. Chains employ more than 3.8 million individuals, 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.

Your legislation would promote a comprehensive approach to preventing prescription drug diversion and abuse. NACDS and the chain pharmacy industry continue to support policies that enable law enforcement entities to serve the public and act to address prescription drug diversion and abuse, while still maintaining patient access to medically necessary medications. This important bill would foster the development of such policies by directing the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to work jointly with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to assess obstacles to legitimate patient access to controlled substances, 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 you for consideration of our perspectives on policies that reduce the incidence of prescription drug diversion and abuse. We appreciate the opportunity to

work with Members of Congress, as well as other policymakers, to promote the health and welfare of our patients and all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Anderson', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

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