

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

February 10, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
House Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Pallone:

I am writing to express the support of the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) for H.R. 471, the “Ensuring Patient Access to Effective Drug Enforcement Act,” legislation that would promote a comprehensive and consistent approach to addressing and preventing prescription drug diversion and abuse in the United States. We appreciate your leadership in the fight against the illegal use of prescription medications.

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.

As the face of neighborhood healthcare, we seek to partner with policymakers to develop and implement viable policies and strategies that empower law enforcement to protect Americans against the dangers of prescription drug diversion and abuse while maintaining legitimate patient access to needed medications. We commend you for this timely legislation that would foster the development and adoption of such policies and strategies. We are pleased that the legislation would direct the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to collaborate with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) 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 Committee on Energy and Commerce for the opportunity to support this important legislation. We are committed to working 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