



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CHAIN DRUG STORES

February 19, 2015

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
104 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
530 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hatch and Senator Whitehouse:

On behalf of the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS), I am writing to express our support for S. 483, the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2015. We are pleased to support this legislation, as it would promote comprehensive and consistent strategies to ensure that patients continue to have access to needed medications while also addressing and 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' 115 chain member companies include regional chains, with a minimum of four stores, and national companies. Chains employ more than 3.2 million individuals, including 179,000 pharmacists. They fill over 2.9 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 850 supplier partners and over 60 international members representing 22 countries. For more information, visit www.NACDS.org.

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 coordinate with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to assess patient obstacles to legitimate access to controlled substances, to identify how collaboration between agencies and stakeholders can benefit patients and prevent diversion and abuse of prescription drugs, and to provide their findings in a report to Congress.

We are appreciative that this legislation would require HHS and DEA to consult with patient and provider groups, including pharmacies, among other stakeholders. Pharmacies play an important role in efforts to prevent prescription drug diversion and abuse.

Thank you for your introduction of this important legislation as well as considering our perspectives on 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