

April 22, 2013

The Honorable Kay R. Hagan  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Pat Roberts  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hagan and Senator Roberts:

The associations and companies listed below are very pleased to support your legislation S.557, the "*Medication Therapy Management Empowerment Act of 2013*." This bill will strengthen Medicare by improving senior citizens' health through increased access to medication therapy management (MTM) services. We look forward to working with you in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress to advance this important measure.

Millions of Americans fail to take their medications appropriately, and medication-related problems including poor medication adherence costs the U.S. health system \$290 billion annually, an amount equal to 13% of total health expenditures. (New England Healthcare Institute, 2009). This is an unacceptable amount of waste that your bill will help address.

We believe the best way to make sure Americans use medications effectively is through professional services offered by qualified pharmacists, including MTM. MTM helps prevent medication errors, optimizes the use of medication including adherence, and gets patients more involved in managing their medication therapy. Evidence shows that MTM improves outcomes and reduces unnecessary medical costs.

A recent report by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has demonstrated the impact MTM services can have on Part D beneficiaries. The report found that Medicare Part D beneficiaries with congestive heart failure and COPD who were newly enrolled in the Part D MTM program experienced increased medication adherence and discontinuation of high-risk medications. The report also found that monthly prescription drug costs for those beneficiaries were lowered by approximately \$4 to \$6 per month and that they had nearly \$400 to \$500 lower overall hospitalization costs than those who did not participate in the Part D MTM program. Another study found that for every \$1 invested in MTM programs, overall healthcare costs were reduced by \$12. (Journal of the American Pharmacists Assoc, March-April 2008.) In the North Carolina "Checkmeds" program, MTM helped 31,000 seniors optimize their drug therapy for a savings of \$34 million -- a return on investment of nearly 14 to 1.

Last November the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released a report which found that after reviewing recent research, CBO "estimates that a 1 percent increase in the number of prescriptions filled by beneficiaries would cause Medicare's spending on medical services to fall by roughly one-fifth of 1 percent." In real world terms, CBO's analysis means that nationwide, a one percent increase in overall prescription drug utilization would lead to an overall decrease of \$1.76 billion in overall healthcare costs, or a savings of \$5.76 for every person in the U.S.

Your legislation is a critical step toward better medication use, including increased adherence and improved access to MTM services. MTM has enjoyed bipartisan support in previous Congresses and we believe your legislation should be part of any effort in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress to improve care and reduce health costs. We are pleased to offer our full endorsement of your legislation.

Sincerely,

American Heart Association  
The American Pharmacists Association  
American Society of Consultant Pharmacists

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America  
Food Marketing Institute  
Kerr Drug Stores, Inc.  
National Association of Chain Drug Stores  
National Coalition on Health Care  
National Community Pharmacists Association  
Rite Aid  
Society for Women's Health Research  
Target  
Walgreens

cc: Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid  
Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell  
Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus  
Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Orrin Hatch  
Senate HELP Committee Chairman Tom Harkin  
Senate HELP Committee Ranking Member Lamar Alexander  
Members of the 113<sup>th</sup> United States Senate