



July 25, 2013

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the Healthcare Distribution Management Association (HDMA) and its 32 primary distributor members, I am writing to urge swift consideration of S. 959, legislation establishing a uniform, national system for securing the pharmaceutical distribution supply chain.

After many years of debate, it appears that we finally have an opportunity to enact federal legislation to strengthen the security of the pharmaceutical supply chain. While Congress, FDA and industry stakeholders have been working diligently for several years on this issue, it is critical that Congress act now to protect the safety of patients and security of the pharmaceutical distribution supply chain. Therefore, we urgently request that you move for Senate consideration of S. 959 as soon as possible so that it can be reconciled with its House companion bill, H.R. 1919, and signed by President Obama.

HDMA has consistently supported enactment of a national approach to pedigree and traceability. The Drug Supply Chain Security Act, Title II of S. 959, contains the core elements necessary to establish a comprehensive, practical framework that increases safety, continues to promote efficiencies and minimizes inconsistencies among the growing patchwork of state requirements. This is the right approach to further strengthen our pharmaceutical supply chain, help ensure safe, efficient delivery of medicines and protect patients from threats associated with counterfeit and diverted products.

Today, HDMA members are faced with state pedigree laws that range from states that have not acted beyond the federal floor set almost 25 years ago, to California, which plans to implement a full scale electronic pedigree system beginning in 2015. In the absence of a national solution, the complexities of the current 50-state patchwork present a significant challenge to all supply chain partners and threaten to create weak links in the supply chain that will jeopardize patient safety.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

John M. Gray  
President and CEO

Cc: Chairman Tom Harkin, Senator Lamar Alexander, Senator Michael Bennet, Senator Richard M. Burr, and Members of the United States Senate