



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CHAIN DRUG STORES

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

April 24, 2012

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Enzi
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Enzi:

413 North Lee Street
Alexandria, Virginia
22314

On behalf of the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) I am pleased to offer our support for the Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP) Committee's legislative package for reauthorizing the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Prescription Drug User Fee Agreements (PDUFA).

NACDS represents traditional drug stores, supermarkets, and mass merchants with pharmacies – from regional chains with four stores to national companies. Chains operate more than 40,000 pharmacies and employ more than 3.5 million employees, including 130,000 pharmacists. They fill over 2.6 billion prescriptions annually, which is more than 72 percent of annual prescriptions in the United States. The total economic impact of all retail stores with pharmacies transcends their \$900 billion in annual sales. Every \$1 spent in these stores creates a ripple effect of \$1.81 in other industries, for a total economic impact of \$1.76 trillion, equal to 12 percent of GDP.

We applaud your leadership in drafting legislative proposals that will ensure that Americans' prescription medications and medical devices continue to be safe and effective. Nothing is more important than the health and safety of the patients we serve.

We are pleased to see provisions that will improve the safety and integrity of the prescription drug manufacturing process. These important enhancements include increased oversight, inspections, and audit of both domestic and foreign facilities involved with drug manufacturing, as well as those facilities that prepare active and inactive ingredients used in drug products. Also importantly, FDA will have long-sought authority to destroy any drug refused admission into the U.S. if the drug has a reasonable probability of causing serious adverse health consequences or death. We believe this authority is critical to support FDA's mission.

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Your legislative package would deter prescription drug counterfeiting by increasing penalties for the reprehensible acts of adulterating a prescription drug or dealing in counterfeit prescription drugs.

With respect to drug shortages, you have included important measures that will provide FDA with advance notice from manufacturers so that FDA may better respond, prevent, and mitigate drug shortages.

The provision to create a working group to develop best practices for assisting the blind and visually impaired with accessing prescription label information will help by including representatives from the pharmacy community and representatives of the blind and visually impaired.

Thank you again for your leadership in developing sensible policies for the reauthorization of PDUFA. We look forward to continue working with you on these important issues. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Kelly, Senior Vice President, Government Affairs and Public Policy with NACDS at 703-837-4255 or ckelly@nacds.org.

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 CEO