



July 1, 2016

The Honorable James T. Welch, Senate Chair
Joint Committee on Health Care Financing
Massachusetts Legislature
State House – Room 309
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Jeffrey Sanchez, House Chair
Joint Committee on Health Care Financing
Massachusetts Legislature
State House – Room 226
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Senate Bill 2313 – Health Insurance Payer Practices Task Force

Dear Senator Welch and Representative Sanchez:

The Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) supports Senate Bill 2313 –establishing a task force to study and analyze health insurance payer practices regarding the dispensing of specialty drugs directly to a patient or provider. AMCP recommends that the Committee add language including a *managed care pharmacist* as a member on the task force.

AMCP is a national professional association of pharmacists and other health care practitioners who serve society by the application of sound medication management principles and strategies to improve health care for all. The Academy's nearly 8,000 members, including 239 living and practicing in Massachusetts, develop and provide a diversified range of clinical, educational and business management services and strategies on behalf of the more than 200 million Americans covered by a managed care pharmacy benefit.

AMCP members manage medication benefits on a daily basis to ensure patients receive the appropriate medication at the right time. They work diligently to design and administer evidence-based, affordable prescription drug benefits. Like their patients, AMCP members are extremely concerned about the impact that rapidly rising prescription drug costs, especially specialty drugs, have on patient access to newer, more effective treatments. Therefore, this study is necessary to assess current models of care and delivery that work and where improvements are needed.

AMCP recommends the inclusion of a managed care pharmacist as a member of this task force because of their expertise and training in medication management and responsibilities for developing programs and services to manage medications for the populations they serve. Managed care pharmacists develop evidence based formularies designed to enhance quality of patient care by selecting the most appropriate medications to improve outcomes while ensuring affordability and accessibility. The programs and services

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developed and implemented by managed care pharmacists are particularly important in ensuring patient access to specialty medications. Therefore, the addition of a managed care pharmacist to the task force would enhance the ability to effectively study and analyze specialty pharmacy dispensing practices.

For the foregoing reasons, we respectfully urge you to support Senate Bill 2313 with language that would include a managed care pharmacist as member on the task force. We appreciate the opportunity to share our views on this bill. If you have any questions, you may AMCP's Massachusetts advocacy leader, Dennis Lyons at (617) 312-5906 or hiddgl@gmail.com. You may also contact the AMCP Director of Legislative Affairs, Regina Benjamin, at (703) 683-8416 or rbenjamin@amcp.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Cantrell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Susan A. Cantrell, RPh, CAE
Chief Executive Officer