



Academy of
Managed Care
Pharmacy®

May 9, 2018

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 2015

RE: Letter of Support for H.R. 3528 – “Every Prescription Conveyed Securely Act”; H.R. 4275 – “Empowering Pharmacists in the Fight Against Opioid Abuse Act”; H.R. 4841 – “Standardizing Electronic Prior Authorization for Safe Prescribing Act”

Dear Chairman Walden and Ranking Member Pallone:

The Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) strongly supports the committee’s drive to combat the opioid epidemic. While searching for solutions to a widespread problem which has impacted the lives of many across the nation, there has been a consensus that no “one size fits all” solution exists and therefore AMCP believes that a holistic, comprehensive, and multi-stakeholder approach among health care providers and patients is necessary to truly address the opioid epidemic. This can be seen in the depth and breadth of bills which Energy and Commerce has brought forward for markup.

AMCP is the nation’s leading professional association dedicated to increasing patient access to affordable medicines, improving health outcomes and ensuring the wise use of health care dollars. Through evidence- and value-based strategies and practices, the Academy’s 8,000 pharmacists, physicians, nurses and other practitioners manage medication therapies for the 270 million Americans served by health plans, pharmacy benefit management firms, emerging care models and government.

In particular, AMCP supports three bills brought before the committee which would help pharmacists and managed care professionals prevent misuse, abuse, and diversion; create education and best practices for pharmacists and health professionals to detect fraudulent activity; and improve care coordination and safety overall for patients.

AMCP Supports H.R. 3528 – “Every Prescription Conveyed Securely Act”

AMCP supports federal and state legislative provisions that require the use of electronic prescribing. Electronic transmission of prescription information improves patient safety, enhances the collection and analysis of patient data, and increases operational efficiencies. Specifically important for opioids, electronic prescribing allows prescription information to be securely transmitted directly to the dispensing pharmacy, reducing the possibility of fraudulent prescribing and preventing patients from photocopying, altering, or otherwise tampering with written prescriptions prior to presentation to the pharmacy. In addition, AMCP supports the adoption of the NCPDP eRx standard as a standardized and secure means of transmitting electronic prescriptions.

Therefore, AMCP urges the committee to return a favorable vote on H.R. 3528.

AMCP Supports H.R. 4275 – “Empowering Pharmacists in the Fight Against Opioid Abuse Act”

AMCP has long supported a collaborative approach amongst federal agencies such as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to develop a robust educational strategy for pharmacists and other healthcare providers on the opioid epidemic. AMCP believes such education should include review of the *CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain* as well as strategies for identifying potentially fraudulent prescriptions and how to address them.

Therefore, AMCP urges the committee to return a favorable vote on H.R. 4275.

AMCP Supports H.R. 4841 – “Standardizing Electronic Prior Authorization for Safe Prescribing Act”

AMCP supports adoption of the NCPDP electronic prior authorization (ePA) standard, which allow more efficient and timely communication between the prescriber and the patient’s health plan in addition to optimizing health. Prior authorization is one of the essential tools which can improve patient care, safety and facilitates cost effective patient outcomes. When the process is paper-based, it can result in unnecessary delays in patient’s receiving the appropriate medications. By automating the process, the ePA process provides real-time responses which increase the efficiency and responsiveness of all parties involved in the process. Requiring broad adoption of the ePA standard for Medicare beneficiaries will allow health plans and prescribers to improve patient outcomes and identify potentially at-risk patients earlier.

Therefore, AMCP urges the committee to return a favorable vote on H.R. 4841.

In summary, AMCP believes that the three bills highlighted above are integral to creating a holistic and multi-stakeholder approach to addressing the opioid epidemic and therefore urge a favorable vote. AMCP appreciates your continued efforts in this area and looks forward to continuing work on these issues with Congress. As you

continue to address these issues, please consider AMCP and our network of over 8,000 managed care pharmacists as a resource. If you have any questions regarding AMCP's comments or would like further information, please contact me at 703-683-8416 or scantrell@amcp.org

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Cantrell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Susan A. Cantrell, RPh, CAE
Chief Executive Officer