



September 6, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 690 (Aguiar-Curry) Pharmacy relocation due to natural disasters –  
SIGNATURE REQUEST**

Dear Governor Newsom,

The California Retailers Association (CRA) and the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) respectfully request your signature on AB 690 (Aguiar-Curry), relating to pharmacy technicians at remote dispensing pharmacies. We are specifically supportive of the provisions in AB 690 that authorize pharmacies damaged or destroyed due to a natural disaster to relocate without changing their license.

Over the past two years, California has suffered devastating losses due to wildfires and subsequent mudslides and flooding. In November 2018, the Camp Fire in Butte County took 85 civilian lives, burned over 150,000 acres, destroyed nearly 14,000 residences, and leveled over 500 businesses. A number of pharmacies were forced to close because they were either damaged or destroyed. Closures like these limit patient access to necessary medications and supplies at a time when those items are desperately needed, particularly in the aftermath of a wildfire. Current law provides certain exemptions for pharmacies in declared emergencies, including procedures for providing emergency refills and operating mobile pharmacies. As wildfires and other disasters become more prevalent in California, AB 690 will ensure consumers impacted by these events are able to continue to access critical medications in their communities in the wake of these declared emergencies.

The California Retailers Association is the only statewide trade association representing all segments of the retail industry including general merchandise, department stores, mass merchandisers, restaurants, convenience stores, supermarkets and grocery stores, chain drug, and specialty retail such as auto, vision, jewelry, hardware and home stores. CRA works on behalf of California's retail industry, which currently operates over 400,000 retail establishments with a gross domestic product of \$330 billion annually and employs over 3 million people—one fourth of California's total employment.

The National Association of Chain Drug Stores advances a pro-patient and pro-pharmacy agenda. For the ultimate benefit of the consumers served by NACDS members, the mission of NACDS is to advance the interests and objectives of the chain community pharmacy industry, by fostering its growth and promoting its role as a provider of healthcare services and consumer products.

For the reasons listed above, we support AB 690 and urge you to sign this important bill. Please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Snyder with Capitol Advocacy at (916) 444-0400 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Rachel Michelin  
President  
California Retailers Association



Mary Staples  
Director, State Government Affairs  
National Association of Chain Drug Stores

Cc: The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Author