



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CHAIN DRUG STORES

February 25, 2020

Senator Eric Bassler, Chair
Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee
200 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Via Email: Senator.Bassler@iga.in.gov

Re: Strong Support for HB 1207: Opportunity to Expand Patient Access to Prescription Drugs, Lifesaving Epinephrine & Vaccines

Dear Senator Bassler,

The National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) applauds the Committee's directive through HB 1207 to expand patient access to care by leveraging the convenience and clinical expertise of pharmacists. This bill will help alleviate patient barriers, including socioeconomic and access challenges associated with higher out-of-pocket costs for therapy such as prescription drugs, vaccines, and epinephrine.

NACDS represents traditional drug stores, supermarkets and mass merchants with pharmacies. In Indiana, chains operate 891 locations that employ 60,969 people. NACDS members operate 40,000 pharmacies in total and include regional chains with as few as four stores as well as national companies. Across the nation, chain pharmacies employ more than 3 million individuals, including 157,000 pharmacists. They fill over 3 billion prescriptions yearly, and help patients use medicines correctly and safely, while offering innovative patient-care services that improve patient health and healthcare affordability. NACDS members also include more than 900 supplier partners and over 70 international members representing 21 countries. Please visit nacds.org.

Because patients visit pharmacies 10 times more frequently than they see other healthcare providers, pharmacists are ideally positioned to expand access to clinical care, fill gaps, and support care coordination across the healthcare team. Given their clinical training and expertise, coupled with their accessibility, pharmacists are often cited as a seriously underutilized asset to improve health and care experiences for patients and reduce costs. In fact, a vast majority of pharmacists have earned the Doctor of Pharmacy degree, requiring 6+ years of clinical study focused on medication therapy and patient care. HB 1207 would better deploy pharmacists and pharmacies to improve healthcare value and access for patients, while also better leveraging the skills of pharmacy technicians to perform administrative work so pharmacists can do what they do best – care for patients.

This bill is an important step forward for Indiana to allow pharmacists to provide more access to clinical care in neighborhoods across the state, especially in rural and underserved populations, at 1,033 total community pharmacy locations. We urge the Committee to execute on this effort to provide patients with the innovative healthcare delivery options they deserve at pharmacy healthcare destinations. Please do not hesitate to contact NACDS' Jill McCormack at JMcCormack@NACDS.org or 717 592 8977 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven C. Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

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

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CC:

Sen. Andy Zay

Sen. Mike Bohacek

Sen. Mike Gaskill

Sen. John Ruckelshaus

Sen. Jack Sandlin

Sen. Greg Walker

Sen. Jean Breaux

Sen. J.D. Ford

Rep. Steven Davisson

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