

September 26, 2013

Senator Tom Harkin
Chairman
Senate Committee on Health Education
Labor and Pensions
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Lamar Alexander
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Health Education
Labor and Pensions
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Fred Upton
Chairman
House Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Henry Waxman
Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce Committee
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Harkin, Ranking Member Alexander, Chairman Upton, and Ranking Member Waxman:

On behalf of the Healthcare Distribution Management Association (HDMA) and its 32 primary distributor members, I am writing to urge swift consideration of the Drug Quality and Security Act, legislation establishing a uniform, national system for securing the pharmaceutical distribution supply chain.

After many years of debate, it appears that we finally have an opportunity to enact federal legislation to strengthen the security of the pharmaceutical supply chain. While Congress, FDA and industry stakeholders have been working diligently for several years on this issue, it is critical that Congress act now to protect the safety of patients and security of the pharmaceutical distribution supply chain. Therefore, we urgently request that you move for consideration of the Drug Quality and Security Act, by both chambers as soon as possible, so that it can be signed by President Obama.

HDMA has consistently supported enactment of a national approach to pedigree and traceability. The Drug Supply Chain Security Act, Title II of the Drug Quality and Security Act, contains the core elements necessary to establish a comprehensive, practical framework that increases safety, continues to promote efficiencies and minimizes inconsistencies among the growing patchwork of state requirements. This is the right approach to further strengthen our pharmaceutical supply chain, help ensure safe, efficient delivery of medicines and protect patients from threats associated with counterfeit and diverted products.

Today, HDMA members are faced with state pedigree laws that range in approach from those states that have not acted beyond the federal floor set almost 25 years ago, to California, which plans to

implement a full scale electronic pedigree system beginning in 2015. In the absence of a national solution, the complexities of the current 50-state patchwork present a significant challenge to all supply chain partners and threaten to create weak links in the supply chain that will jeopardize patient safety.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J.M. Gray", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John M. Gray
President and CEO

CC: Senate Majority Leader Reid, Senate Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker of the House
Boehner, and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi