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The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Committee on Health,
Education, Labor & Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Ranking Member
Committee on Health,
Education, Labor & Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 24, 2013

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

The National Association for Uniformed Services was founded in 1968 to protect and enhance the earned benefits of uniformed service members, retirees, veterans, and their families and survivors; and as such we feel compelled to write you as your committees consider legislation that responds to the tragic incidents of patients being harmed by contaminated products manufactured by compounding pharmacies across the Nation.

As an organization whose mission is to guard and protect the benefits earned by our servicemen and women and their families, we feel strongly that protecting the quality of the products and services provided under those benefits is an inherent and paramount concern to our mission.

There have been numerous incidences where contaminated compounded products have severely injured veterans. For example, over the past few years veterans in several cities were unwittingly blinded by compounded products which were contaminated through an unregulated repackaging process.

We are very concerned about language in any bill which would allow entities operating as large scale compounders and repackers of sterile product to go unregulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Therefore, we believe that compliance with full FDA Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) requirements should be required of any compounding pharmacies engaged in interstate commerce.

We recognize that full compliance with GMP and other FDA requirements will be an inconvenience for some in the healthcare industry who have opted to use compounded products. However, this inconvenience should not be accommodated through legislative loopholes at the expense of improved patient safety, including the safety of our nation's veteran.

We applaud your committees for addressing this critical public health issue. The nightmare stories of blinded veterans by the contamination of sterile products, which were simply repackaged incorrectly, should serve as reminder of the nation's objective should be in addressing regulation of compounded products.

Sincerely,



Jack W. Klimp
Lieutenant General
U.S. Marine Corps (Retired)
President & CEO