

Sept. 28, 2013

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

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

We thank you for your good work to protect all Americans from unsafe, substandard, and compromised medicines. The Drug Quality and Security Act will help create a national framework to secure the U.S. pharmaceutical supply and make compounded products safer.

We urge you to pass the Drug Quality and Security Act without delay. This bill contains important provisions to protect consumers and patients. It creates a strong national unit-level serialization and traceability standard to keep unsafe medicines from reaching consumers.

The bill is also a step forward in the longstanding effort to reduce the risks of drugs made by compounding pharmacies that exceed traditional practice. It restores key provisions of section 503A of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and creates a “voluntary category” of outsourcing facilities that will enable hospitals and clinics to purchase drugs made under higher quality standards.

Nearly every American family depends on medicines to prevent or treat illness. This bipartisan, bicameral legislation will help ensure that those drugs are safe, effective, and of the highest quality. We urge swift passage.

American Medical Student Association
American Public Health Association
Annie Appleseed Foundation
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Center for Science and Democracy, Union of Concerned Scientists
Center for Medical Consumers
Community Catalyst
Connecticut Center for Patient Safety

National Association of County and City Health Officials

Ovarian Cancer National Alliance

The Pew Charitable Trusts

Trust for America's Health

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