



601 13TH STREET, NW, 11TH FLOOR • WASHINGTON, DC 20005

February 3, 2016

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Senate Committee on Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Judiciary
United States Senate
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Endorsement of S.483

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Leahy:

On behalf of the Senior Care Pharmacy Coalition, we are writing to urge your support and approval without amendment of S. 483, Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2015. The SCPC is the national association of independent long-term care (“LTC”) pharmacies. Our member pharmacies provide care and services to patients in long-term care facilities in more than 40 states, serving patients in approximately 400,000 beds across the country every day. The SCPC advocates for public policies that protect patients, improve the quality of healthcare across a shifting care continuum, and strengthen the economic viability of independent LTC pharmacies and their ability to serve medically compromised seniors. As such, we are particularly focused on the national opioid and addiction crisis, and welcome effort to attack and eliminate drug abuse wherever it occurs, including in the long term care environment.

Given our experience and expertise, we are pleased to endorse S. 483 for recognizing the balance that industry and government must achieve to address the growing epidemic of prescription drug abuse while ensuring that patients have access to critical medicines. This important legislation would afford affected stakeholders additional opportunities to collaborate with federal and state government agencies to combat the abuse of prescription drugs while ensuring appropriate patient access. In particular, we support provisions of the legislation that allow regulated parties to work together with agencies to collaboratively develop remediation plans to any identified weaknesses in the distribution system.

In addition, and as you well know, drug overdoses are a leading, and growing, cause of death across the country. Addiction is a leading killer in America, and not only destroys lives, but destroys families and communities. Long term care pharmacies have a long history of protecting the integrity of the pain and other addictive medications supply chain, and we have significant first-hand experience to share with interested parties.

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
February 3, 2016
Page 2 of 2

We understand that, in addition to S.483, the Judiciary Committee also is considering various legislation to address the national addiction crisis directly, by expanding efforts to prevent the abuse of heroin and other opioids and to promote treatment and recovery. The SCPC is on record as supporting federal legislative efforts to eliminate drug abuse, particularly opioid abuse, and welcome efforts to attack such abuse wherever it occurs. We also believe that legislative and regulatory efforts in this regard must remain cognizant of the unique circumstances of patients who receive care and services in long-term care settings, as well as those of the facilities and pharmacies that serve them.

We thank you for your leadership on this important issue of national concern, and thank you for your efforts to enact needed legislation that will help address this national epidemic. We look forward to working with you and the Members of the Judiciary Committee to advance and enact S. 483 and also to help inform the Committee's work in efforts to address the national crisis while acknowledging the legitimate need to assure appropriate access to these medications for patients in long-term care settings. .

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan D. Rosenbloom". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Alan Rosenbloom
President & CEO

cc: The Honorable Orrin Hatch
The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse