



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CHAIN DRUG STORES

September 12, 2018

The Honorable Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
United States House of Representatives
432 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-1001

Dear Representative Carter:

The National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) is pleased to support your legislation, Know the Cost Act (H.R. 6733), to prohibit group health plans, health insurance issuers, prescription drug plan sponsors, and Medicare Advantage organizations from restricting pharmacies from informing individuals about differences in their out-of-pocket cost for a prescription drug if it is obtained under their plan or insurance coverage or without using their insurance. We are also pleased to recognize your colleagues who have joined you in introducing the Know the Cost Act, who have also been copied on this letter.

NACDS believes gag clauses should not be allowed in contracts between health plans and pharmacies. Such clauses prevent pharmacists from informing patients when a medication can be purchased at a lower price without using insurance. The prohibition and/or removal of gag clauses in contracts between Part D plans, Medicare Advantage plans, PBMs, and pharmacies will enhance patient access to medications, enable pharmacists to have improved relationships with patients, and keep healthcare costs for patients to a minimum.

Pharmacies are the face of neighborhood healthcare and are a highly trusted source of healthcare information, products, and services. Your legislation helps ensure that Medicare beneficiaries can continue to trust their local pharmacies for accurate and helpful information regarding their prescription drug costs.

Again, we appreciate your leadership on this critically important healthcare issue. If you have any questions, please contact Bill Tighe, Vice President, Federal Government Affairs at (703) 837-4214 or wtighe@nacds.org.

Sincerely,

The National Association of Chain Drug Stores

CC: The Hon. Michael Burgess
The Hon. Debbie Dingell
The Hon. Lloyd Doggett
The Hon. Anna Eshoo
The Hon. Gene Green



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The Hon. Morgan Griffith
The Hon. Cathy McMorris Rodgers
The Hon. Erik Paulsen
The Hon. Peter Welch