

April 11, 2018

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
United States House of Representatives
11103 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Katherine Clark
United States House of Representatives
1415 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) Support of H.R. 3528

Dear Congressman Mullin and Congresswoman Clark:

The National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) is writing today in strong support of H.R. 3528, the *Every Prescription Conveyed Securely Act*, a bill that would help combat the opioid crisis. The National Community Pharmacists Association (“NCPA”) represents the interests of America’s community pharmacists, including the owners of more than 22,000 independent community pharmacies. Together, they represent an \$80 billion health care marketplace and employ more than 250,000 individuals on a full or part-time basis. By volume, 52 percent of the total prescriptions our members fill is covered by Medicaid or Medicare Part D.

NCPA believes that the use of e-prescribing provides many benefits, such as reducing fraud and abuse, increased efficiency, secure electronic record keeping, less call backs, and added safety. Electronically prescribed controlled substance prescriptions cannot be forged, copied, or amended, and can be tracked electronically. In addition, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) implements strict security requirements for authenticating prescriptions to prevent fraudulent prescribing. In addition, electronic prescriptions encourage accountability and convenience for pharmacists, doctors, and patients.

Electronic prescribing of controlled substances (EPCS) has improved over the past few years, but the uptake in the industry has been slow due to a variety of reasons. NCPA supports the passing of the *Every Prescription Conveyed Securely Act*, as it will encourage and promote electronic prescriptions. We strongly support provisions in the bill that exempt long-term care pharmacies from these requirements and give patients the explicit right to choose where they access their prescriptions that have been electronically prescribed. E-prescribing would positively address the opioid crisis by reducing fraud and abuse, false prescriptions, and enhancing record security.

Sincerely,



B. Douglas Hoey, RPh, MBA
NCPA Chief Executive Officer
National Community Pharmacists Association

Cc:

Chairman Greg Walden
Ranking Member Frank Pallone