

An Update from Tom Menighan, CEO of APhA

Pharmacists' services and H.R. 592 noted at House opioid hearing

APhA continues to advocate for pharmacists being recognized as health care providers by Medicare and for patients to have better access to the vast array of services that pharmacists provide. Pharmacists can make a positive impact on many public health issues, including the opioid epidemic, which is plaguing our nation's families and communities, more.....

This opioid crisis has been front and center for Congress, as the four Congressional Committees with significant jurisdiction over health policy (Senate HELP, Senate Finance, House Energy & Commerce, and House Ways and Means) have been engaged and working towards potential legislative solutions with a goal of completing efforts before Memorial Day.

Kimberly Brandt, principal deputy administrator for Operations, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, testified about the benefits of pharmacists inclusion during a House Energy and Commerce Committee hearing. "Pharmacists are a very important part of the care coordination, as I've mentioned in several of my answers today. Pharmacists play a vital role and are on the frontline helping work with providers to address this and we think that MTM treatments in particular have been very beneficial to beneficiaries and we look forward to working with you to expand that."

Also during the hearing, Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) acknowledged the value of pharmacists on health care. "Authorizing pharmacists' clinical services under Medicare Part B would go a long way to empower pharmacists and give them the opportunity to help address prescription drug misuse and abuse."

APhA has led efforts to have nearly 10,000 letters sent to Capitol Hill this year in support of legislation that would allow pharmacists to have a larger role in health and patient care. Thank you for your continued engagement!