

April 18, 2018

The Honorable Buddy Carter
United States House of Representatives
432 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
United States House of Representatives
115 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) Support of H.R. 4275

Dear Congressman Carter and DeSaulnier:

The National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) is writing today in strong support of H.R. 4275, the *Empowering Pharmacists in the Fight Against Opioid Abuse 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.

NCPA believes that educating pharmacists about circumstances under which they may decline to fill a prescription provides benefits, such as reducing fraud and abuse. With greater clarity, pharmacists can further contribute to combatting opioid abuse. In addition, the *Empowering Pharmacists in the Fight Against Opioid Abuse Act* would appropriately guide pharmacists through the process of declining to fill a prescription and what actions to take after. This provision would encourage accountability and convenience for pharmacists, doctors, and patients to ensure only legitimate prescriptions will be filled.

NCPA supports passage of the *Empowering Pharmacists in the Fight Against Opioid Abuse Act*, as it can discourage and prevent fraudulent and forged prescriptions. These training materials for pharmacists, health care providers, and patients can positively address the opioid crisis by reducing fraud and abuse, false prescriptions, and enhancing security.

Sincerely,



Karry K. La Violette
Vice President, Government Affairs and Advocacy
National Community Pharmacists Association

Cc:

Chairman Greg Walden
Ranking Member Frank Pallone