



March 22, 2018

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Stabenow and Collins:

On behalf of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), and our 64,000 members, I am pleased to announce our support for the *Know the Lowest Price Act*, S. 2553—legislation to permanently remove a significant barrier imposed on pharmacists from pharmaceutical benefit managers’ (PBMs) use of “gag clauses” in contracts. APhA appreciates your efforts to increase patients’ access to more affordable and cost-effective medicines by empowering pharmacists to inform patients that a medication may be less expensive if purchased at the “cash price,” rather than through their insurance plan. For years pharmacists have been frustrated by their inability to help their patients who they knew were struggling with high co-payments.

APhA, founded in 1852 as the American Pharmaceutical Association, represents pharmacists, pharmaceutical scientists, student pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and others interested in improving medication use and advancing patient care. APhA members provide care in all practice settings, including community pharmacies, physicians’ offices, hospitals, long-term care facilities, community health centers, managed care organizations, hospice settings and the uniformed services.

America’s 300,000 pharmacists are the health care professionals most often at the front lines of informing patients about their medication costs or copay amounts and explaining complicated insurance coverage policies. However, under many contracts with PBMs, pharmacists cannot inform patients that a medicine is less expensive if they pay the cash price and do not run it through their health plans.

Thank you for your efforts in removing this barrier on pharmacists—the medication expert on the patient’s health care team—to assist patients in receiving the affordable medications they need. APhA is committed to working collaboratively with you and other stakeholders to improve the accessibility and affordability of effective medications. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Alicia Kerry J. Mica, Senior Lobbyist, Government Affairs, at amica@aphanet.org or by phone at (202) 429-7507.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Menighan, BSPHarm, MBA, ScD (Hon), FAPhA
Executive Vice President and CEO

cc: Stacie S. Maass, RPh, JD, Senior Vice President, Pharmacy Practice and Government Affairs
The Honorable Ron Wyden, Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
The Honorable Debbie Stabenow, Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, Health Subcommittee