



American Pharmacists Association[®]

Improving medication use. Advancing patient care.

March 1, 2016

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: S. 2578 – Reducing Unused Medications Act of 2016

Dear Senator Warren:

On behalf of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), and our more than 62,000 members, we would like to take this opportunity to commend you for your leadership in introducing S. 2578, Reducing Unused Medications Act of 2016. APhA, founded in 1852 as the American Pharmaceutical Association, represents more than 62,000 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, hospitals, long-term care facilities, community health centers, managed care organizations, hospice settings and the uniformed services.

Our members support strategies to promote safe and effective medication use and to minimize the risks of adverse effects, including misuse and dependence. APhA is committed to working with the Senator and other members of Congress on ways to curb opioid abuse and misuse but strongly advocates that any approach must provide safeguards to ensure patient access to medically-necessary treatment, including pain treatment that includes opioids. We support mechanisms, such as allowing partial filling of schedule II prescriptions, to help curb prescription drug abuse, misuse, and diversion while limiting waste. S. 2578 enables pharmacists, prescribers and patients to better tailor prescription drug needs while simultaneously reducing potential opioid misuse and abuse by limiting opportunities for prescriptions to be used by someone other than the patient.

We believe solutions will require the unified efforts of many diverse stakeholders, including health care professionals, patients and caregivers, community-based organizations, and federal, state, and local governments. We stand ready to work with you toward common solutions that strengthen and enhance efforts that balance patients' legitimate access to pain treatment with safety concerns stemming from abuse and misuse of certain prescription drugs. As you move forward, please do not hesitate to use APhA as resource. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Michael Spira, Senior Lobbyist, Government Affairs at mspira@aphanet.org or by phone at (202) 429-7507.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Menighan

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