

American Pharmacists Month Proclamation

Getting a proclamation for American Pharmacists Month can be easier if you know how to go about it. In many areas, a mayor or governor can issue a proclamation without action from the city council or state legislature.

Here are some tips on how to get a proclamation issued with or without legislative action.

When a Public Official Can Issue a Proclamation without Legislative Approval

1. Call your mayor's or governor's office to determine how proclamations are issued. When you call, be prepared to learn that the process may take a few months. Also, have your materials ready, such as the sample proclamation below. Localize relevant facts about pharmacy and simply explain why American Pharmacists Month should be recognized by your city or state.
2. Try to elicit support from other pharmacist leaders in your city or state. You can have them contact their mayors, city councils, and local and state officials about American Pharmacists Month. Letters to the governor from local pharmacists' associations will reflect statewide interest and support.
3. When a proclamation is issued, express your thanks and appreciation. Include the governor and/or mayor in ceremonies planned for the Month. Remember to inform the media about American Pharmacists Month and the official attention you have received. Finally, send a letter of appreciation to the official after the month's activities are over.

When Legislative Action is Required to Issue a Proclamation

1. If you need to work through the city council or state legislature, start now. Again, start by finding out what the process is for getting official recognition. Your local representative's office can tell you how to start (even if you intend to ask another representative in your state to sponsor the proclamation).

2. A resolution will need to be sponsored by a member of the appropriate governmental body. Find someone who is supportive of pharmacy or who has voiced an interest in health care concerns. (This would also be a good time to educate a government official who has not worked with you.) In several states, pharmacists are members of the legislature. If you reside in one of those states, your pharmacist-legislator may be a good person to ask to be the sponsor.
3. Again, have prepared materials for use in drafting a resolution or proclamation. Be ready to share your insight about pharmacy and the significance of American Pharmacists Month. For example, indicate how many pharmacists are in your city or state, the valuable contribution they make to the community, how much the resolution will mean to the [NUMBER OF] pharmacist constituents/voters, and how this recognition might have a positive impact on overall community health. Emphasize the work pharmacists and the pharmacy team have done to protect and serve individuals and communities throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. Find out how you can help your sponsor ensure passage of the resolution. Like any bill, you have to lobby. This will require a plan and some hard work. You may need to get other legislators to co-sponsor the resolution. You can start by writing your legislators about the resolution and soliciting their support. Telephone follow-up may be needed with your sponsor and with other legislators to remind them of the importance of this issue to pharmacists. They may be in a good position to help your sponsor in moving the bill.
5. After the resolution is passed, show appreciation to your sponsor and to everyone who supported the resolution.
6. See sample proclamation below. This sample may be used as a template.

Sample Proclamation

The White House
Proclamation

Whereas, pharmacists are the most accessible health care providers delivering critical services to patients and contributing to the health and well-being of all people; and

Whereas, pharmacists are best positioned to be the health care provider that ensures optimal medication therapy outcomes, and helps to ensure patients are adherent to their medications; and serve as providers during public health emergencies; and

Whereas, as front-line providers throughout the healthcare system and community during the COVID-19 pandemic, pharmacists and pharmacy personnel have ensured the public is cared for, even at the risk of exposure; and

Whereas, with a community pharmacy located within five miles of nearly all Americans, pharmacists and pharmacy personnel are making an impact to control the spread of COVID-19 in U.S. communities through testing, treatment, and vaccination efforts; and

Whereas, pharmacists are ideally suited to work collaboratively with other health care providers and helping patients overcome illness and live healthier lives through chronic disease management and the fully effective use of their medicines; and

Whereas, today, there are over 300,000 licensed pharmacists providing care and serving as patient advocates for ensuring access to the best and safest therapy to the patients they serve; and

Whereas, the American Pharmacists Association, the have declared October as American Pharmacists Month.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, President Joeseph R. Biden, Jr., do hereby proclaim October as American Pharmacists Month and urge all our citizens to acknowledge the valuable services of pharmacists to provide safe, accessible, affordable, and beneficial patient care services and products to all residents and protect the public health of our communities.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand
and caused this seal to be affixed.

[GOVERNOR'S/MAYOR'S SIGNATURE]