



Alliance to Prevent the Abuse of Medicines

May 28, 2014

The Honorable Tom Marino
U.S. House of Representatives
410 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
U.S. House of Representatives
217 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter Welch
U.S. House of Representatives
2303 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Judy Chu
U.S. House of Representatives
1520 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Marino, Blackburn, Welch and Chu:

On behalf of the Alliance to Prevent the Abuse of Medicines, we would like to express support for the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2014 (H.R. 4709). We appreciate your leadership and commitment to bring greater clarity to the requirements for the safe and secure distribution and dispensing of controlled substances to combat the inappropriate use of prescription medicines.

This legislation will clarify key terminology in the Controlled Substances Act to give registrants a better understanding of their responsibilities under the law. This bill will also allow DEA-registered companies to submit corrective action plans to address any agency concerns, creating a more robust and transparent process to address drug diversion with the intention of curtailing unnecessary supply chain disruptions that affect patient access to needed medications. In addition, the report to Congress will encourage meaningful dialogue to identify how collaboration between agencies and stakeholders can benefit patients and prevent diversion and abuse of controlled substances.

By way of background, the Alliance to Prevent the Abuse of Medicines is a non-profit partnership of key stakeholders in the prescription drug supply chain, including manufacturers, distributors, pharmacy benefit managers, physicians, laboratories and pharmacies, that have joined together to develop and offer policy solutions aimed at addressing the prescription drug abuse epidemic. The mission of the Alliance is to raise awareness of the issue of prescription drug abuse, partner with legislators to craft achievable solutions, and serve as a resource for policymakers. As the only industry-led coalition focused on this issue that includes representation across the domestic pharmaceutical supply chain, the Alliance brings a comprehensive perspective to addressing the prescription drug abuse epidemic.

The members of the Alliance believe that the diversion and abuse of prescription drugs is a national, public health crisis that must be confronted and addressed through a collaborative effort by all stakeholders via a multi-faceted approach. We believe H.R. 4709 is one component to reducing diversion and abuse. We appreciate your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

The Alliance to Prevent the Abuse of Medicines

cc: The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman, House Energy and Commerce Committee

The Honorable Joe Pitts
Chairman, House Energy and Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Health

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce Committee

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Health