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November 27, 2015

The Honorable Joseph Pitts  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Health  
Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Gene Green  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Health  
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Dear Chairman Pitts and Ranking Member Green:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Subcommittee on Health at the October 21, 2015 hearing entitled "Examining the Medicare Part D Medication Therapy Management Program." By letter dated November 13, 2015, you provided an additional question for the record related to this hearing; my response to this question is enclosed. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you or the members of your subcommittees have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Lawrence Kocot". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a thin horizontal line.

S. Lawrence Kocot  
Principal and National Leader  
Center for Healthcare Regulatory Insight  
KPMG, LLP

**The Honorable Representative G.K. Butterfield**

**1. How do you see the role of pharmacies and pharmacists plan in the healthcare industry evolving, particularly as new models of care are explored and implemented?**

Pharmacists are among the most trusted and accessible health care providers; indeed, pharmacists are the most knowledgeable health care providers about prescription medicines and medication use.

According to the National Association of Chain Drug Stores, 93% of Americans live within 5 miles of a community pharmacy.<sup>1</sup> A growing number of pharmacies around the country include nurse practitioners and physician assistants to allow patients to receive additional health care services such as annual physicals, immunizations and treatment for non-emergency conditions. In light of the aging of the population and projected physician shortages, the role of the pharmacy in providing convenient access to care for acute and even chronic non-emergency care services will likely continue to grow and evolve. Pharmacists and pharmacies are well positioned to play a greater role in the health care system as new models of payment and delivery are explored and implemented. The real question is whether pharmacists and pharmacies will continue to innovate with payment and delivery models that are not primarily identified with a service linked to the sale of a pharmaceutical product. If pharmacists can be recognized and rewarded for the true value they deliver beyond putting pills in a bottle, the pharmacy could become a natural destination for the provision (and perhaps coordination) of a much greater range of health care services in the future.

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<sup>1</sup> National Association of Chain Drug Stores. 2011-2012 Chain Pharmacy Industry Profile, p. 14