

## Health Care Reform – What should we be doing now!

On April 20, APhA hosted an APhA Advocacy Key Contact (AAKC) conference call to review the next steps in the health care reform process. During the call, APhA staff reviewed the highlights of the new health care reform laws, the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148) (PPACA)* and *Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-153) (HCERA)*, and discussed the future regulatory and appropriations processes. In particular, staff identified key areas for next steps in the health care reform process where AAKCs could be engaged now and in the future, such as:

1. Engaging in the implementation process by responding to APhA requests for feedback on proposals, submitting comments, or supporting [work to secure appropriations](#);
2. Staying abreast of the process by reading [APhA's summaries](#) and sharing them with your colleagues;
3. Continuing to educate Members of Congress and their staff about the value of pharmacist services; and
4. Encourage others to [join the AAKC](#).

Since the AAKC conference call, APhA has developed the following action alert on [the pharmacy provisions in PPACA](#). As you know, APhA did not take a position on the overall bill. Instead, APhA focused its advocacy efforts on several pharmacy related provisions in PPACA, including provisions that would:

- Expand patient access to pharmacist clinical services;
- Ensure patient access to products and services;
- Ensure greater pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) transparency; and
- Ensure a viable pharmacy infrastructure.

Many Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle supported our provisions and fought to secure them in the final health care reform law. As we enter the implementation stage, it is important that we take a moment to thank Members of Congress for their support of the pharmacy issues in PPACA. As an AAKC, we encourage you to take action by sending a message to [your Representative](#) and [your Senators](#) by visiting [APhA's Legislative Action Center](#) to access pre-formatted letters for either Members of Congress who supported or opposed PPACA.

Lastly, while the AAKC conference call was very productive, we were also hoping to provide the AAKCs with a replay of the call. Unfortunately, due to audio issues, the recording of the call will not be distributed. Staff is working to address the audio issue for future APhA Advocacy Key Contact conference calls.

Thank you for your support!

All the best,

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