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Pharmacists Coalition Announces Capitol Hill Health Fair and Virtual Advocacy Day

WASHINGTON D.C. — As the Patient Access to Pharmacists' Care Coalition (PAPCC) celebrates American Pharmacists Month, which promotes the valuable contributions that pharmacists make to the healthcare profession, patients, and their communities, the PAPCC is excited to announce a congressional virtual advocacy day and the third annual Capitol Hill Health Fair, efforts to further educate members of Congress and their staff about pharmacists' patient care services.

On Wednesday, October 28, the PAPCC is calling on its members to participate in a virtual advocacy day by writing and phoning members of Congress to urge their support of S. 314/H.R. 592 and share information on the impact pharmacists have on patients.

Additionally, October 28 marks the third annual Capitol Hill Health Fair hosted by the American Pharmacists Association, ASHP (American Society of Health-System Pharmacists), the National Association of Chain Drug Stores, the National Community Pharmacists Association, and Walgreens. Pharmacists and student pharmacists from pharmacy schools in the Washington, D.C., area will provide health screenings and flu shots to members of Congress and their staffs, providing an opportunity for them to experience first-hand the many services that pharmacists offer to patients.

"These efforts reflect the Coalition's commitment to raising awareness of the role that pharmacists can play in helping to address the needs of medically underserved Medicare beneficiaries," said Vince Ventimiglia, President at Leavitt Partners and advisor to PAPCC.

Millions of seniors live in medically underserved communities in the United States without adequate access to health care. However, nearly 95 percent of Americans live within 5 miles of a pharmacy. Pharmacists are highly accessible and highly educated health care professionals who, in coordination with other providers on a health team, are capable of playing a greater role in the delivery of health care services to underserved patients. While pharmacists' primary focus is assisting patients with access to and information regarding their medications, pharmacists are ready and able to provide additional services needed in underserved communities.

About PAPCC

PAPCC is a multistakeholder and interdisciplinary initiative. Membership is comprised of organizations representing patients, pharmacists, and pharmacies, as well as other interested stakeholders. Our mission is to develop and help enact a federal policy proposal that would enable Medicare beneficiary access to, and payment for, Medicare Part B services by state-licensed pharmacists in medically underserved communities. Our primary goal is to improve medically underserved seniors' access to pharmacists' services consistent with state scope of practice laws and regulations.

For more information, go to PharmacistsCare.org and Congress.gov.