



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
SPECIALTY PHARMACY

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NASP Applauds Bipartisan Legislation Introduced to Reduce Drug Costs and Support Access for Seniors with Life-Threatening Specialized Conditions

WASHINGTON, DC – May 24, 2018 – Today Representatives Doug Collins (R-GA) and Vicente Gonzalez (D-TX) introduced legislation to rein in the high cost of prescription drugs and support the needs of specialty pharmacy patients living with life altering and life-threatening medical conditions. *The Phair Pricing Act of 2018* ensures that medication savings are passed along to seniors at the pharmacy counter and not otherwise used to manipulate drug costs or disadvantage the specialty pharmacies serving these patients.

“NASP is so grateful our plea to address specialty pharmacy patient needs has been answered with bipartisan support. Passing this legislation will be a victory for patients, specialty pharmacies, the Medicare program and ultimately taxpayers. High drug costs and anticompetitive business practices that threaten independent specialty pharmacy’s ability to care for their patients risks lives and significantly drains Medicare resources. Barriers to access and affordability force some seniors to forgo the medications they need, resulting in life threatening consequences and increased Medicare costs through preventable hospitalizations and medical complications. We look forward to working with Representatives Collins and Gonzalez to pass this much needed and commonsense bill,” said Sheila Arquette, NASP Executive Director.

This month, the White House and Department of Health and Human Services released a blueprint for drug pricing reform - “American Patients First” – reiterating the administration’s interest in reforms that would apply pharmacy price concessions charged by Prescription Drug Plans (PDPs) and Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) to the price of the drug at the point of sale. Today, such concessions are unpredictable and non-transparent and are inappropriately applied as chargebacks on specialty pharmacies, tantamount to a tax on these pharmacies. Specialty pharmacies are often reimbursed far less than their costs to obtain the life-saving medications they dispense. This threatens their ability to provide critical education to ensure medication compliance and the essential care coordination services for patients with complex conditions such as: cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, cystic fibrosis, and HIV/AIDS. These fees threaten quality and affordable care for seniors while allowing the largest PDPs and PBMs to keep more Medicare dollars for themselves.

“As Congress and the administration address the continued affordability of life changing and often life-saving prescription drugs, we must ensure we focus on seniors living with severe and complex medical conditions that require treatment with specialty medications. For far too long, these seniors have

been shouldering the brunt of fees that threaten continued access to the critical patient care support services these specialty medications require and patients deserve. Today's bill led by Representatives Doug Collins and Vicente Gonzalez will change course, protecting access to specialty medications, improving quality, and reducing costs for seniors across the country. The National Association of Specialty Pharmacy (NASP) urges Congress to act on this important bill this year."

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The National Association of Specialty Pharmacy (NASP) is the only national association representing all stakeholders in the specialty pharmacy industry. NASP members include the nation's leading independent specialty pharmacies, pharmaceutical and biotechnology manufacturers, group purchasing organizations, patient advocacy groups, integrated delivery systems and health plans, technology and data management vendors, wholesalers/distributors and practicing pharmacists. With over 100 corporate members and 1,200 individual members, NASP is the unified voice of specialty pharmacy in the United States.