



May 10, 2022

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Republican Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Pallone and McMorris Rodgers:

On behalf of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP), I am writing to voice our ongoing support for H.R. 6000, the “Cures 2.0 Act,” bipartisan legislation by Representatives Diana DeGette and Fred Upton to modernize access and coverage to innovative medical therapies. We believe passage of this important legislation should be a top priority in this session of Congress, and therefore urge the committee approve the bill as soon as possible.

ACCP is a professional and scientific society that provides leadership, education, advocacy, and resources enabling clinical pharmacists to achieve excellence in patient care practice and research. ACCP's membership is composed of almost 18,000 clinical pharmacists, residents, fellows, students, scientists, educators and others who are committed to excellence in clinical pharmacy practice and evidence-based pharmacotherapy.

While we support the Cures 2.0 Act in its entirety, we specifically would like to highlight the importance of *Section 408*, which would establish Medicare coverage for pharmacogenomic consultations delivered by qualified clinical pharmacists and other qualified providers. This provision will help address the significant inefficiency in our health system with non-optimized medication use.

It is estimated that \$528 billion dollars a year, equivalent to 16 percent of total health care spending, is consumed due to inappropriate or otherwise ineffective medication use. Given the central role that medications play in care and treatment of chronic conditions, the continuing growth in the complexity of medications, and greater understanding of the genetic and physiologic differences in how people respond to prescription drugs, it is tragic that the nation’s health care system consistently fails to deliver the full promise medications can offer.

Pharmacogenomics (PGx) is the study of how a patient’s genetic profile determines their responses to specific medications. When applied as a component of comprehensive medication

management (CMM)¹, PGx ensures that a patient's medications are individually assessed to determine that each is indicated, effective, and safe, in view of the comorbidities present, other concurrent medications, and the patient's ability to adhere to the prescribed regimen. When integrated into CMM, PGx consultations allow for targeted treatment decisions based on the characteristics of the patient's unique genetic profile.

ACCP welcomes recognition in the Cures 2.0 Act of the unique value that qualified clinical pharmacists provide in advanced approaches to the treatment of complex conditions. As Congress continues to tackle the serious issues addressed in the bill, we urge you to consider how these structures can be integrated with evolving team-based, quality-focused payment and care delivery models that shift Medicare payment policy toward value of care and away from volume of services. Toward that end, we would welcome the opportunity to provide the committee with additional information, data, and connections to successful practices that provide comprehensive medication management and pharmacogenomics services.

In summary, we urge the Committee to make passage of H.R.6000, the Cures 2.0 Act, a top priority in this session of Congress. We thank you for your leadership in efforts to modernize and improve the health care system — and we believe strongly that this legislation would take important steps toward those goals.

Thank you for your consideration and should you have any questions, or if I may be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

John McGlew

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Cc: The Honorable Diana DeGette
The Honorable Fred Upton

¹ CMM is a direct patient care service, provided by clinical pharmacists working as formal members of the patient's health care team that has been demonstrated to significantly improve clinical outcomes and enhance the safety of medication use by patients. To ensure medication optimization, pharmacogenomics (PGx) should be integrated into CMM.