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Department of Government & Professional Affairs

December 1, 2016

The Honorable Peter Welch
2303 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Welch,

On behalf of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP), sincere congratulations on your electoral victory on November 8th. We are delighted that you will return to Washington to continue your bi-partisan leadership in the 115th Congress. In particular, we look forward to working with your office to promote major changes that will modernize the Medicare program and further enhance quality, value and clinical outcomes for our nation's seniors.

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 practitioners, scientists, educators, administrators, students, residents, fellows, and others committed to excellence in clinical pharmacy and pharmacotherapy.

During the 114th Congress ACCP was proud to endorse H.R. 3890, the Better Care, Lower Cost Act and to work with your staff to help facilitate a Congressional Briefing related to this important legislation titled, "Getting the Medications Right": An essential ingredient in achieving the goals of H.R. 4878 – the Medicare Better Care, Lower Cost Act.

As you continue to refine and develop strategies to improve care for chronically ill Medicare beneficiaries and your work to reform the fee-for-service system to facilitate team-based care that helps patients achieve their clinical goals, we urge the inclusion within Medicare Part B of comprehensive medication management (CMM) services by clinical pharmacists as integrated members of the health care team.

CMM is a collaborative process that helps ensure that seniors' medication use is effectively coordinated, achieves clinical goals of therapy and, in doing so, enhances seniors' health care outcomes. This in turn contributes directly to your goals - and Medicare's goals - for enhanced quality and affordability. In short, CMM helps to "get the medications right" as part of an overall effort to improve the quality and affordability of the services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

Dedicated to Excellence in Clinical Pharmacy Practice, Research and Education

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Michael S. Maddux, Pharm.D., FCCP, Executive Director

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CMM is fully endorsed by the Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative, (PCPCC), in which ACCP as well as the four major primary care medical organizations are actively involved. It is a rapidly emerging standard of care within integrated health care delivery systems.

As part of the process of reforming the Medicare delivery and payment system to improve care and outcomes for beneficiaries with chronic conditions during the 115th Congress, we would welcome the opportunity to continue to work with you and your staff on this critical issue.

We appreciate your commitment to improving the quality of care available to Medicare beneficiaries. Please feel free to follow up with us at any time if our organizations and our Vermont-based members can be of assistance in this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Edwin Webb". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping tail.

C. Edwin Webb, PharmD, MPH
Associate Executive Director

cc: Michael Maddux, Pharm.D., FCCP, Executive Director