



ACCP Advocacy in Action Newsletter



Connecting Evidence, Policy, and Advocacy to Advance Clinical Pharmacy



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Protect Federal Funding for Pharmacy Residency Programs: Rebuild America's Health Care Schools Act of 2024

Last year, Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Thom Tillis (R-NC) and Representatives Darrin LaHood (R-IL), Angie Craig (D-NM), and Michelle Fischbach (R-MN) introduced the Rebuild America's Health Care Schools Act of 2024 ([S. 5397/H.R. 10225](#)), which will require the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to clarify the requirements that residency programs must meet to receive Medicare reimbursement for operating pharmacy, nursing, and allied health residency programs.

Introduction of this important legislation follows an effort earlier this year led by Senator Klobuchar in which 1300 ACCP members and supporters mobilized in support of Senate action to protect pass-through funding for postgraduate year one (PGY1) residency programs. Thank you for this show of support!

Background

Since 2019, CMS has implemented changes to its auditing procedures for clinical pharmacy residency programs, but without updating its regulations or providing guidance on how residency programs can stay in compliance with these auditing procedures.

Medicare pass-through funding for PGY1 residency programs is critical to ensuring the sustainability of the clinical pharmacy profession. However, under these burdensome Medicare auditing procedures, many PGY1 residency programs have been stripped of funding.

Call To Action

The 119th Congress was sworn in on January 3, 2025, and we expect that reintroduction of this important bill will be a priority in the new year. We are calling on ACCP members to write to Congress to urge support for this legislation. ACCP has created a [preformatted email template](#) that allows you to automatically send a letter to your U.S. senators and representative, according to your home address. This streamlined process ensures that it will take less than 2 minutes for you to make a meaningful impact by expressing your views on this important issue.

ACCP Government and Professional Affairs Update: Assessing ACCP's Advocacy Strategy in 2025

President Donald J. Trump returned to the White House on January 20 and was sworn in as the 47th president of the United States, claiming an "[unprecedented and powerful mandate](#)" to dramatically overhaul the apparatus of the federal government. With Republican majorities in the House and Senate and a conservative-leaning Supreme Court, the new administration is in an advantageous position to advance its policy agenda.

ACCP is an [evidence-based organization](#) that prioritizes the generation of innovative science and dissemination of new knowledge to advance pharmacotherapy and patient care. With a series of [Executive Orders](#), the Trump Administration initiated a new era of "policy unknowns" characterized by a lack of clearly communicated guidelines and an absence of predictable process. Acknowledging the rapidly evolving regulatory environment of the Trump administration, ACCP is working to maintain its strategic, evidence-driven approach to advocacy while remaining vigilant and responsive in support of regulatory structures and conventions that delineate and facilitate the clinical practice of its members.

Capitol Hill Strategy

Both independently and as part of a multi-organizational coalition, ACCP has been active on Capitol Hill and has already held meetings with some of the leading offices in the Senate Finance Committee and House Ways and Means Committee.

ACCP-PAC is the political voice of the clinical pharmacy profession and will be a key advocacy tool throughout the 119th Congress. ACCP-PAC [recently attended an event hosted by Rep. Buddy Carter \(R-GA\)](#), a pharmacist currently serving in the US Congress who was recently elected as chair of the Health Subcommittee on Energy and Commerce, with jurisdiction over Medicare issues.

ACCP-PAC is nonpartisan and is the only federal political action committee dedicated specifically to advancing the practice of clinical pharmacists and the care of their patients. The College supports candidates whose

perspectives align with ACCP's mission to advance the profession and improve human health and who have demonstrated leadership on issues important to ACCP members, such as protecting Medicare funding for pharmacy residencies. [Click here](#) to learn more about ACCP-PAC.

ACCP Statement on Senate Hearing: HHS Secretary Nomination of Robert F. Kennedy Jr

ACCP submitted a statement to the Senate Finance Committee related to the nomination of Robert F. Kennedy Jr to serve as secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. [Click here](#) to read the statement.

ACCP Statement to Congress: Overcoming Barriers to Accessing Medications for Opioid Use Disorder

ACCP submitted a letter to Reps. Paul Tonko (D-NY) and Michael Turner (R-OH) in response to a request for information issued by these offices calling for input from stakeholders on addressing barriers to accessing medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder. [Click here](#) to read the statement.

ACCP's Priorities for the 119th Congress

ACCP's top advocacy priority on Capitol Hill is to establish Medicare coverage and payment for comprehensive clinical pharmacy services that optimize medication use for patients. Beyond this vital initiative, ACCP will work with its pharmacy colleagues and other key health care stakeholders—including physician organizations—to advance the following legislative efforts:

Protecting PGY1 Residency Funding

Substance Use Prevention and Pharmacy Oriented Recovery Treatment Prescription Act (SUPPORT Rx Act)

Advancing Medicare Coverage for Pharmacogenetic Consultations

ACCP-PAC Advocacy Update: Opportunities for Clinical Pharmacy in the 119th Congress

ACCP-PAC is the political voice of the clinical pharmacy profession. It is the only federal political action committee dedicated specifically to advancing the practice of clinical pharmacists and the care of their patients. As the 119th Congress gets underway on Capitol Hill, ACCP-PAC has been active in its bipartisan support for members of Congress who have demonstrated leadership on issues important to ACCP members, such as Medicare funding for pharmacy residencies.

Through your support for ACCP-PAC, members of the College can attend fundraising events that provide a unique setting for educating representatives and senators about the essential work of clinical pharmacists in improving medication outcomes on behalf of patients.

ACCP-PAC recently attended an event hosted by Rep Earl L. "Buddy" Carter (R-GA), who is one of just 2 pharmacists currently serving in the US Congress.



ACCP's Senior Director of Government Affairs, John McGlew (right) discusses potential opportunities for clinical pharmacy with Congressman Carter at a 2024 Capitol Hill event.

About Representative Carter

Representative Carter is a pharmacist currently serving as the representative for Georgia's First Congressional District. The district is based in Savannah and includes most of the state's coastal southern area. Representative Carter was first elected to Congress in 2015 after serving the people of Georgia as a state representative (2005-2009) and state senator (2009-2014).

Representative Carter is a well-established leader on health care issues in Congress and will serve as chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Health for the 119th Congress. In this powerful role, Representative Carter's committee will hold jurisdiction over key provisions in the Medicare program.

In a statement, Representative Carter highlighted his health care background:

"As a pharmacist for more than 40 years, I am thrilled to sit atop the Health Subcommittee for the 119th Congress.... The goal of this subcommittee is as straightforward as it is consequential: help Americans live healthier and longer lives. We will work toward

this goal, in lockstep with President Trump, to tackle our nation's chronic disease epidemic, increase price transparency, incentivize competition, combat harmful health care consolidation, fight the scourge of fentanyl, and build a health care system that puts patients before profits. Through transparency, competition, and innovation, we will Make America Healthy Again."

About ACCP-PAC

ACCP's Political Action Committee (PAC) allows the College to participate in political campaign activities that strengthen its relationships with key policymakers on Capitol Hill. Providing financial support to influential leaders helps raise the profile of clinical pharmacy and demonstrates ACCP's ideological commitment to its core mission.

To maximize its impact, ACCP must be strategic in targeting its limited resources to the health policy leaders best placed to advance its agenda. Here's how ACCP's leaders decide who should receive financial support.

Consistent with all of ACCP's initiatives, ACCP-PAC is member driven and is managed by a [Governing Council](#), which is responsible for decisions related to how PAC money is spent.

- ACCP-PAC is nonpartisan—committed to working with health policy leaders across all political parties and ideologies.
- ACCP-PAC supports candidates on the basis of their alignment with ACCP's mission to advance the profession and improve human health through research, training, and education.
- ACCP-PAC strategically targets members of Congress who sit on committees with jurisdiction over health care. In the Senate, ACCP-PAC primarily supports members on the Finance Committee and the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee. In the House, ACCP-PAC focuses on those who sit on the Ways and Means Committee and the Energy and Commerce Committee.
- ACCP-PAC is committed to transparency—all contributions are reported to the [Federal Election Commission](#), and the information is available to the public.

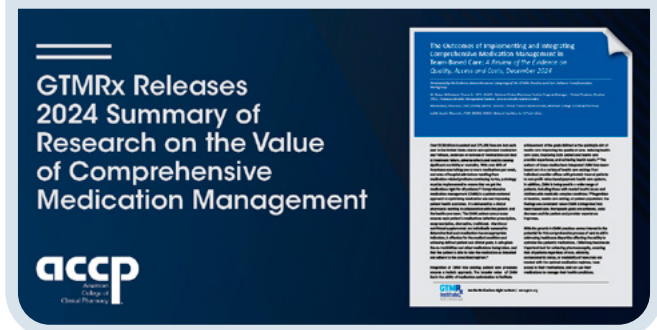
It is vital that ACCP be able to provide support to its friends in Congress so that these leaders can remain in Washington to advance policies that meaningfully address the health care issues the nation currently faces.

PAC contributions are a constitutionally protected part of the US political system under the First Amendment's guarantee of free speech. ACCP-PAC is the only means through which the College can provide

GTMRx Releases 2024 Summary of Research on the Value of Comprehensive Medication Management (CMM)



The Outcomes of Implementing and Integrating Comprehensive Medication Management in Team-Based Care: A Review of the Evidence on Quality, Access and Costs, December 2024, commonly termed the evidence document, highlights the best of the studies showing the value of CMM in achieving all 5 aspects of the quintuple aim of health care: providing high-quality care, reducing health care-related costs, improving the patient's care experience, improving health care team members' work-life balance, and achieving health equity. Access the document [here](#).



financial support for candidates for Congress. With its 16,000 members, ACCP is in a position to become one of the most prominent pharmacy PACs in Washington. To do this, the College needs the widespread support of its membership. All ACCP members should consider donating at least \$25 to ACCP-PAC. [CLICK HERE](#) to support your PAC today!

Accepting Applications: 2026-2027 Congressional Healthcare Policy Fellow

Now approaching its 20th year, this Washington, DC-based program, the only one of its kind in the nation, offers a unique opportunity for a pharmacist to serve as a staff member in the US Congress, with orientation managed by the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) and American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Government Affairs offices.

2024-2025 Congressional Healthcare Policy Fellow

Mikayla Harris, Pharm.D., is currently serving in the office of Sen. Lisa Murkowski as the 2024-2025 ACCP-ASHP-Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Congressional Healthcare Policy Fellow.

About the Fellow Program

The 14-month fellow program is a joint initiative led by the Government Affairs teams at ACCP and ASHP and the faculty at the VCU School of Pharmacy. The program provides active mentorship and hands-on experience within the US Congress and offers fellows the opportunity to develop skills in issue prioritization, policy, legislation evaluation, research, writing, and advocacy.

During their congressional placement, fellows are typically responsible for researching and writing briefs on health care issues, assisting with policy analyses, and drafting memoranda, floor speeches, and questions for panelists at congressional hearings, as well as planning, organizing, and contributing to the senator or representative's office policy and management issues for the year.

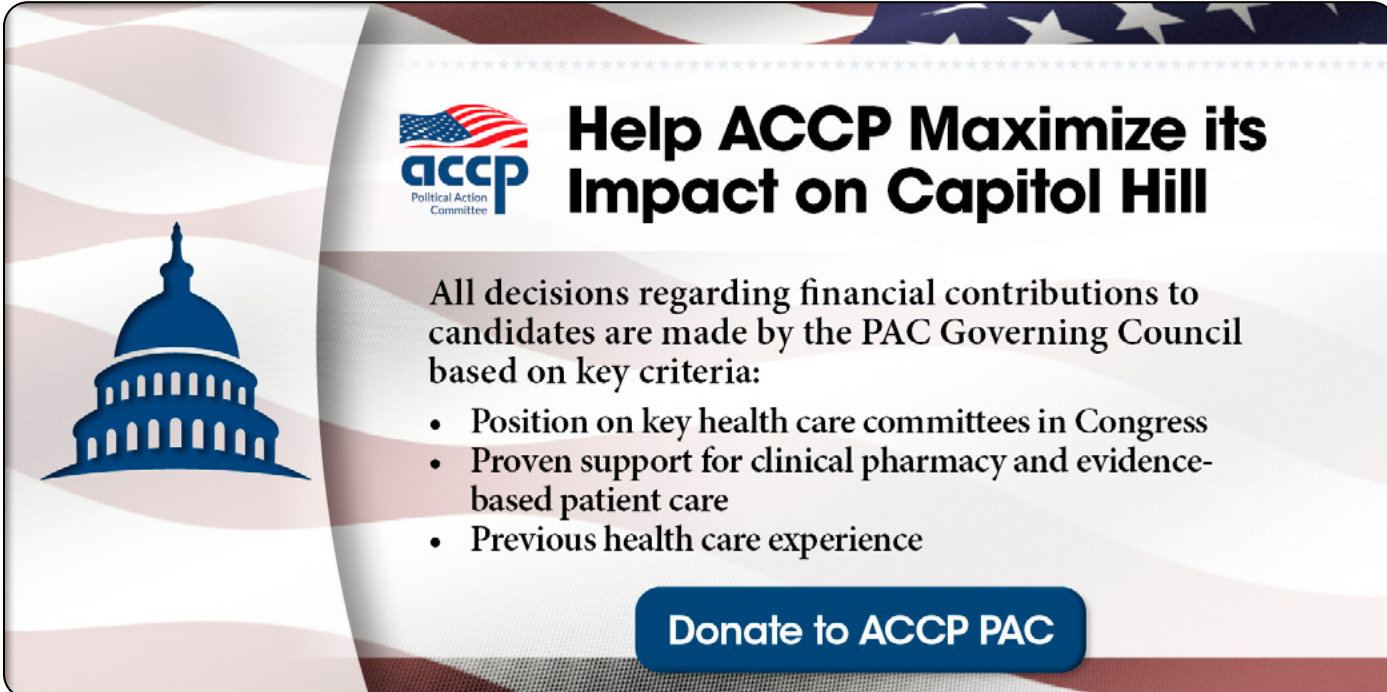
Alumni Fellows

After their service in the program, past fellows have gone on to engage in a variety of important roles in health care policy and government:

- Amanda Ferguson, Pharm.D., went on to serve as Health Legislative Assistant in the office of US Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE).
- Tatiana Bujnoch, Pharm.D., MS, BCPS, currently serves as Health Equity and Policy Associate at Morgan Health.
- Rita (Habib) Livadas, Pharm.D., currently serves as Director, Global Public Health, Life Sciences at Becton, Dickinson and Co.

Applications for 2026-2027 Pharmacy Healthcare Policy Fellow Program

Interested candidates should visit the pharmacy Congressional Healthcare Policy Fellow program website for more information and instructions on submitting an application. For more information, [click here](#).



The banner features a stylized American flag background with a blue silhouette of the US Capitol dome on the left. The ACCP logo is positioned in the upper left of the text area.

Help ACCP Maximize its Impact on Capitol Hill

All decisions regarding financial contributions to candidates are made by the PAC Governing Council based on key criteria:

- Position on key health care committees in Congress
- Proven support for clinical pharmacy and evidence-based patient care
- Previous health care experience

Donate to ACCP PAC