



ACCP Advocacy in Action Newsletter



Connecting Evidence, Policy, and Advocacy to Advance Clinical Pharmacy



Washington, D.C. Office, Department of Government and Professional Affairs • 1455 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 400 • Vol.5, No. 2; June 2026

Standing Up for Clinical Pharmacy on Capitol Hill: ACCP DC-Area Chapter Annual Advocacy Day



Left to right: Gabrielle Guy, UMD School of Pharmacy; Miya Ross, UMD School of Pharmacy; Vijay Modi, UMD School of Pharmacy; Dylan Cudd-Brignac, Pharm.D., MedStar Washington Hospital Center; Lisa Peters, Pharm.D., MedStar Washington Hospital Center; John McGlew, ACCP staff.

On March 26, 2026, ACCP’s Government Affairs office welcomed clinical pharmacists from the DC-Area College of Clinical Pharmacy for its Annual Capitol Hill Lobby Day. We thank our volunteer leaders from DC, Maryland, and Virginia for making this exciting event possible! Building on our experience holding virtual lobby days during the pandemic, this event was made available to members as an in-person and virtual hybrid effort.

Our group was led by Lisa Peters, Pharm.D., clinical specialist pharmacist in advanced heart failure and heart transplant at MedStar Washington Hospital Center. Peters received her Pharm.D. degree from the University of Michigan College of Pharmacy and completed her pharmacy practice residency at the Richmond Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Peters is a former president of the DC College of Clinical Pharmacy and has organized the DCCCP Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill for more than 10 years.

The DCCCP represents members from across the Washington metropolitan area, including the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. This year, our group

included student pharmacists from the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. On Wednesday evening before the event, the group convened an online training and preparatory session to ensure all attendees were fully briefed.

The group met in person on Thursday morning at ACCP’s Washington, DC offices for an overview of ACCP’s advocacy platform, the current legislative environment, and the congressional lobbying process.

From there, we made our way up Pennsylvania Avenue NW to enjoy lunch at the cafeteria in the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill before meetings with Representative Jamie Raskin (D-MD) and Senators Tim Kaine (D-VA) and Chris Van Hollen (D-MD).



DC College of Clinical Pharmacy members on Capitol Hill.

Although staff in these offices are already familiar with ACCP’s advocacy priorities, the importance of direct engagement of these active ACCP members in the political process cannot be replicated, whether in Washington, DC, or back home when Congress is in recess.

Consistent with ACCP’s advocacy priorities, our lobbying visits focused on ACCP’s efforts to establish Medicare coverage for comprehensive clinical pharmacy services as part of a broader reform of Medicare payment policy. In addition, we urged elected officials to cosponsor legislation to protect critical federal funding for pharmacy and nursing residency programs. The Rebuild America’s Health Care Schools Act of 2025

([S. 1087](#), [H.R. 1708](#)) would clarify the requirements that hospitals and health systems must meet to receive Medicare reimbursement for operating health care residency programs and require CMS to cover ALL direct and indirect costs associated with the training of a nursing and allied health education participant—including pharmacy residents—incurred by a participating hospital.



Thank you, DCCCP!

ACCP would like to thank the leadership of the DC chapter for their hard work and commitment to ACCP's advocacy agenda. Any ACCP chapter or individual member interested in visiting Washington to lobby on Capitol Hill should contact the College's Washington office, where your advocacy efforts can be facilitated and supported.

ACCP Government and Professional Affairs Update: Executive Branch Communications Strategy

ACCP is an evidence-based organization that prioritizes the generation of innovative science and dissemination of new knowledge to advance pharmacotherapy and patient care. Since President Trump was sworn-in as the 49th President of the United States on January 20, 2025, ACCP has remained fully committed to our strategic, evidence-driven approach to advocacy, while remaining vigilant and responsive to regulatory developments that directly affect our members and their ability to take care of patients.

Over the course of the Trump Administration to date, ACCP has met personally with leaders at Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish an ongoing “open-door” dialogue. This approach has helped us in our targeted engagement with the [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#) and the [Task Force on Safer Childhood Vaccines](#). Last year, ACCP also submitted communications to the [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services \(CMS\)](#) and the [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#).

Most recently, ACCP [submitted a statement](#) in response to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) March 18, 2026, meeting of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) reiterating our long-standing position that CDC should utilize the expertise of qualified clinical pharmacists to strengthen the scientific integrity, operational insight, and patient-centered focus of the nation's immunization policy.

Capitol Hill Strategy

Both independently and as part of multi-organizational coalitions, ACCP has been active on Capitol Hill targeting some leading offices in the Senate Finance Committee and House Ways and Means Committee.

ACCP is currently working with the [GOP Doctors Caucus](#), an informal congressional body of Republican members of Congress with medical and health care provider backgrounds dedicated to patient-centered health care policy. The caucus often provides meaningful guidance to congressional Republican leadership.

ACCP-PAC Supports Our Advocacy Communications

ACCP-PAC is the only federal political action committee dedicated specifically to advancing the practice of clinical pharmacists and the care of their patients. We are non-partisan. We support candidates who 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-PAC is the only means by which ACCP can provide financial support to help candidates for Congress who understand and support our issues and share our vision of a team-based, patient-centered, quality-driven approach to health care delivery.

ACCP-PAC is a non-partisan, member-driven initiative and all decisions regarding financial contributions to candidates are made by the [PAC Governing Council](#) based upon certain established criteria:

- Position on key health care committees in Congress

- Proven support for pharmacy and health care-related issues
- Previous health care experience

The key health care-related committees in the House of Representatives are the Ways & Means, and Energy & Commerce committees; and the Finance & Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (H.E.L.P.) committees in the Senate.

ACCP members who contribute to the PAC may recommend candidates to receive contributions. All PAC contributor recommendations will be considered; however, not all requests may be accommodated. The ACCP-PAC Governing Council must approve all candidate contributions.

For more information, visit the ACCP-PAC website at www.accpaction.org or contact John McGlew (jmcglew@accp.com).

ACCP Congressional Communications: Lowering Health Care Costs for All Americans: An Examination of the Prescription Drug Supply Chain

On February 11, 2026, in the US House of Representatives, the Subcommittee on Health of the Committee on Energy and Commerce held a hearing titled [Lowering Health Care Costs for All Americans: An Examination of the Prescription Drug Supply Chain](#).

Executive leaders of organizations including [PhRMA](#), the [Biotechnology Innovation Organization](#), and the [National Community Pharmacists Association](#) provided testimony at the hearing. ACCP [submitted comments](#) reminding the committee to focus on improving the overall effectiveness and value of medication therapy, not simply the cost of medicines, and calling for legislative action to add a defined comprehensive clinical pharmacy benefit to the Medicare program.

With [rural health](#) issues central to the administration and Republicans in Congress, ACCP proposed that for rural communities, access to clinical pharmacy services would help create efficiencies across the health delivery system. Clinical pharmacists help deliver enhanced productivity for the entire health care team, allowing other team members to be more efficient in their own patient care responsibilities. Physicians are able to dedicate more time to the diagnostic and treatment selection process, enabling them to be more efficient, see more patients, and spend more time providing medical care. Team members are freed up to practice at the highest level of their own scopes of practice by fully using the qualified clinical pharmacist's skills and training to coordinate the medication use process as a full team member.

High-Value Interventions Primary Care Practices Might Be Overlooking: Clinical Pharmacy Services



This [podcast episode](#) features an interview with Russell Phillips, Amie Pollack, and Dru Ricci from the Center for Primary Care at Harvard Medical School and authors of the Primary Care Investment Guide, with special guest Todd Sorensen from the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy.

The Primary Care Investment Guide advocates for the integration of clinical pharmacists into primary care teams. The authors explain that their research used a mixed-methods approach, interviewing health care leaders from 5 states and conducting literature reviews, to identify sustainable strategies in primary care settings that enhance patient outcomes and reduce costs. Their findings highlight that clinical pharmacists provide a significant return on investment by managing chronic diseases, optimizing medications, improving medication access, and decreasing hospitalizations. The discussion emphasizes that successful integration can be facilitated by payment reform, moving away from fee-for-service models toward capitated payments and other alternative payment models that support optimal care delivery by primary care teams. Ultimately, the guide provides a strategic framework for health care leaders and policymakers to justify and implement the provision of high-value services in primary care settings.

Funding for the Primary Care Investment Guide was provided by The Commonwealth Fund and the California Health Care Foundation. You can download the Primary Care Investment Guide here: <https://thepcc.org/reports/2025-primary-care-investment-guide/>.

New Guide Recommends Integrating Clinical Pharmacy in Advanced Primary Care



The comments also reminded Congress that ACCP's advocacy proposal is supported by the [Primary Care Collaborative](#), in which many of the major primary care medical organizations are actively involved. Clinical pharmacists help ensure that older adults' medication use is effectively coordinated and, in doing so, enhance their health care outcomes, contributing directly to Medicare's goals for quality and affordability.

ACCP is currently working with the [GOP Doctors Caucus](#), an informal congressional body of Republican members of Congress with medical and health care provider backgrounds dedicated to patient-centered health care policy. The caucus often provides meaningful guidance to congressional Republican leadership.

For more information, visit the ACCP-PAC website at www.accpaction.org or contact John McGlew (jmcglew@accp.com).

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

On Capitol Hill, Sens. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Thom Tillis (R-NC) and Reps. Darrin LaHood (R-IL) and Michelle Fischbach (R-MN) are leading an effort to protect CMS funding for pharmacy residency programs. These leaders in Congress have introduced the Rebuilding America's Health Care Schools Act of 2025 ([S. 1087](#), [H.R. 1708](#)).

We need your help. ACCP has developed a letter that you can send automatically to your elected leaders in Washington, DC so it should take less than two minutes for you to make a real impact!

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 postgraduate pharmacy residency programs is critical to ensuring the sustainability of the clinical pharmacy profession. However, under these burdensome Medicare auditing procedures, many pharmacy residency programs have been stripped of funding. Thanks to clinical pharmacy's advocacy efforts, our friends in Congress recognize this problem and have introduced legislation that would prevent unnecessary funding clawbacks jeopardizing pharmacy residency training.

How You Can Help

[Take action now](#) to send messages asking your senators and representative to co-sponsor this bill and pass it into law.

Keep ACCP informed! Many ACCP members have already received responses from their members of Congress. Please send any responses you receive to ACCP's team in Washington, D.C., at jmcglew@accp.com.



2026 ACCP ANNUAL MEETING

October 17-20 • Hyatt Regency Salt Lake City • Salt Palace Convention Center • Salt Lake City, UT