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C. Edwin Webb, Pharm.D., M.P.H.
Director, Government & Professional Affairs

April 22, 2008

The Honorable Heather Wilson
United States House of Representatives
442 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3101

Dear Representative Wilson:

The American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) applauds your introduction of H.R. 5780, the Medicare Clinical Pharmacist Practitioner Services Coverage Act of 2008. Your understanding of and commitment to the direct patient care services that clinical pharmacists provide to improve the quality and safety of medication use will be very helpful to our ongoing efforts of several years to achieve broader Congressional support for these services, and to stimulate the changes in Medicare payment policy that must occur to help such practice models become more economically viable.

During our meeting last week with Legislative Director Joe Moser, we expressed our appreciation for your leadership on the issue, but also shared our concern as an organization representing clinical pharmacists throughout the nation that the legislation as currently crafted would limit its applicability to certain clinical pharmacists in New Mexico and North Carolina due to the unique regulatory framework and terminology for such practitioners in those states.

ACCP believes that the regulatory authority of individual state boards of pharmacy (and medicine) in establishing the rules and procedures for collaborative drug therapy management (CDTM) agreements and protocols between clinical pharmacists and physicians should be respected. CDTM is currently authorized in 44 of the 50 states, using various regulatory structures and procedures that have been developed and embraced by the pharmacy and medical communities in those states. ACCP further believes that Medicare beneficiaries in those states are equally deserving of the quality of care and enhanced clinical outcomes that have been demonstrated to occur through the provision of CDTM.

Consequently, ACCP hopes that you would be receptive to language changes to H.R. 5780 that would expand its scope to include coverage of the services of those clinical pharmacists throughout the United States who practice under approved collaborative practice agreements as authorized and regulated by their respective boards of pharmacy. We would appreciate the chance to work with you and staff to achieve that broader objective and impact.

Thank you again for your efforts on this very important issue. Please feel free to follow up with us at any time if we can be of assistance to you and your staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Edwin Webb', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

cc: ACCP Board of Regents

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