



---

University of California Health  
1111 Franklin Street  
Oakland, CA 94607

[health.universityofcalifornia.edu](http://health.universityofcalifornia.edu)

---

ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTERS

UC Davis Health  
UC Riverside Health  
UC San Diego Health  
UCI Health  
UCLA Health  
UCSF Health

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS

Schools of Dentistry  
Schools of Medicine  
Schools of Nursing  
Schools of Optometry  
Schools of Pharmacy  
Schools of Public Health  
School of Veterinary Medicine

INSTITUTES

Global Health Institute

May 24, 2024

The Honorable Larry Bucshon  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2313 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Doris Matsui  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2311 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Adrian Smith  
U.S. House of Representatives  
502 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Earl "Buddy" Carter  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2432 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Brad Schneider  
U.S. House of Representatives  
300 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Diana Harshbarger  
U.S. House of Representatives  
167 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Bucshon, Matsui, Smith, Carter, Schneider, and Harshbarger:

On behalf of UC Health, I write to endorse **H.R. 1770, Equitable Community Access to Pharmacist Services Act**. This legislation supports patient access to essential health services and would allow pharmacists to continue to respond to ongoing and future public health threats to California and the nation. By acting to advance this legislation, Congress can ensure pharmacist services are covered, protect vulnerable patient communities, and strengthen our nation's public health response.

The University of California (UC) benefits the nation through world-class educational opportunities, groundbreaking research, and top-rated health care. UC Health has six academic medical centers, twenty health professional schools, and a global health institute. Together, UC Health programs are one of the nation's largest health sciences and medical education training programs, the leading provider of certain specialty services and medical procedures, world leaders in clinical discoveries, one of the state's largest providers of care to Medicare patients, and the second largest provider of Medicaid inpatient services in California.

At UC Health, pharmacists provide team-based clinical services in both the inpatient and outpatient setting. Clinical pharmacists collaborate with our physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals to provide safe and effective medication use and improve patient health outcomes while reducing

workload burdens on other clinical staff.<sup>1</sup> They educate patients and caregivers about their medications, monitor drug therapy, and coordinate communication between patients, insurers, and interdisciplinary specialty providers. Pharmacists' management of medication therapy has been shown to improve transitions of care and reduce hospital readmissions.<sup>2</sup>


The COVID-19 pandemic reinforced that pharmacists are essential in providing health care and services for Americans, especially underrepresented, underserved populations and rural communities. Pharmacists in hospitals and health systems were critical to COVID-19 vaccine rollout efforts, setting up vaccine administration sites, and providing millions of vaccine doses.

In California and nationwide, there is a growing recognition that pharmacists can play crucial roles as members of interprofessional care teams and in settings that focus on public health issues. At UC Health, our students from the three schools of pharmacy – UCSF School of Pharmacy, UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and UC Irvine School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences – have opportunities to collaborate with their health professional peers in our six UC schools of medicine and more. Our schools of pharmacy offer a variety of innovative, rigorous programs to meet students' professional goals and advance the pharmaceutical field. In 2022, our schools of pharmacy collectively trained more than 1,200 students in the discipline, many of whom engage in research, education and/or patient care.

We urge Congress to swiftly pass H.R. 1770 to ensure pharmacists are reimbursed for critical care and services under Medicare Part B. In doing so, Congress will ensure Medicare beneficiaries can continue to receive treatment from pharmacists for certain health conditions and allow pharmacists to respond to ongoing and future public health threats to our nation. Medicare beneficiaries living in rural, socially vulnerable, and underserved areas will be especially benefited by this federal policy to reduce the existing gap in access to care.

We stand ready to engage with you on this timely and important effort. If we can provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Director of Health and Clinical Affairs Kent Springfield at [kent.springfield@ucdc.edu](mailto:kent.springfield@ucdc.edu) or (202) 993-8810.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
D880668F622246E...  
David Rubin, M.D.  
Executive Vice President  
UC Health

---

<sup>1</sup> McFarland, MS, Nelson J, Ourth H, Groppi J and Morreale A. Optimizing the primary care clinical pharmacy specialist: Increasing patient access and quality of care within the Veterans Health Administration. J Am Coll Clin Pharm. 2020; 3:494- 50; Funk, K., Pestka, D., McClurg, M., Carroll, J., Sorensen, T. Primary Care Providers Believe That Comprehensive Medication Management Improves Their Work-Life. Journal of American Board of Family Medicine. 2019; 32(4): 462-473. [doi: 10.3122/ jabfm.2019.04.180376](https://doi.org/10.3122/jabfm.2019.04.180376)

<sup>2</sup> Ni, W., Colayco, D., Hashimoto, J., Komoto, K., Gowda, C., Wearda, B., McCombs, J. Budget Impact Analysis of a Pharmacist Provided Transition of Care Program. Journal of Managed Care & Specialty Pharmacy. Feb 2018; Budlong, H, Brummel, A, Rhodes, A, Nici, H. Impact of Comprehensive Medication Management on Hospital Readmission Rates. Population Health Management 2018. 21(5): 395-400.