



American Pharmacists Association[®]

Improving medication use. Advancing patient care.

APhA

April 26, 2017

Senator Joe Manchin III
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

Re: Budgeting for Opioid Addiction Treatment (S. 523)

Dear Senator Manchin,

The American Pharmacists Association (APhA) is committed to working with lawmakers to improve access to, and funding for opioid addiction treatment. Founded in 1852 as the American Pharmaceutical Association, APhA represents 64,000 pharmacists, pharmaceutical scientists, student pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and others interested in improving medication use and advancing patient care. APhA members provide care in all practice settings, including community pharmacies, hospitals, long-term care facilities, community health centers, physician office practices, managed care organizations, hospice settings, and the uniformed services.

While APhA appreciates efforts to improve access to opioid abuse and misuse and treatment, APhA believes it is imperative that access and funding solutions do not discourage or impede patient access to appropriate pain management treatment. APhA is concerned that mechanisms to increase funding for opioid addiction treatment through a tax, surcharge or fee on prescription opioids or members of the supply chain will simply be passed onto the patient through higher cost medications. Thus, APhA recommends considering alternative measures to fund opioid addiction treatment that do not shift costs onto patients or certain patient populations.

APhA recognizes the important role that pharmacists and other members of the supply chain have to help patients suffering from opioid addiction and in preventing opioid abuse and misuse. However, we do not believe that imposing a tax, surcharge or other fee on opioids is a reasonable measure. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Alicia Kerry Mica, Senior Lobbyist, at amica@aphanet.org or by phone at (202) 429-2985.

Sincerely,

Alicia Kerry J. Mica,
Senior Lobbyist

cc: Stacie S. Maass, RPh, JD, Senior Vice President, Pharmacy Practice and Government Affairs