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# ABOUT THE HDA WEEKLY DIGEST

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# HDA WEEKLY DIGEST

## A Newsletter for HDA Members

June 28, 2022

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# HDA's Dr. Nicolette Louissaint Discusses Supply Chain Resilience on National Consumers League Podcast

HDA's Senior Vice President of Policy and Strategic Planning Dr. Nicolette Louissaint recently discussed supply chain resilience on the National Consumers League (NCL) podcast "We Can Do It!" In conversation with NCL's Executive Director Sally Greenberg, Dr. Louissaint shared how healthcare distributors leveraged their logistics expertise and partnerships to ensure medicines and medical products continued to reach points of care throughout the pandemic. She also highlighted the critical role that distributors played to help ensure a smooth COVID-19 vaccine rollout.

During the episode, Dr. Louissaint and Greenberg also delved into the importance of the Strategic National Stockpile and preparing for the "next big thing." Dr. Louissaint also talked about her personal journey of becoming one of the top experts in supply chains and the biomedical field.

NCL is a nationwide consumer advocacy organization that provides government, business and other organizations with the consumer's perspectives on concerns including child labor, privacy, food safety and medication information.

Listen to the podcast here or, or access via Apple or Google podcast apps.

For more information, contact Farah Simonett.

#### **Federal Legislation Updates**

On June 22, Senators Shaheen (D-N.H.) and Collins (R-Maine) introduced the <a href="Improving Needed Safeguards">Improving Needed Safeguards</a> for Users of Lifesaving Insulin Now (INSULIN) Act which would, among other provisions, cap the cost of insulin for patients at \$35 per month. According to the <a href="press release">press release</a>, the bill "builds on Shaheen's and Collins' previous effort, increasing measures to encourage insulin manufacturers to reduce list prices, while extending patient protections that will foster competition and broader access to desperately needed insulin products." Majority Leader Schumer (D-N.Y.) stated that he will put the bill on the Senate floor very soon.

Also last week, the Senate Commerce Committee passed the <a href="Pharmacy Benefit Manager Transparency Act">Pharmacy Benefit Manager Transparency Act</a> by a vote of 19-9 during a markup session. The legislation will empower the FTC to increase drug pricing transparency and hold Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) accountable for "unfair and deceptive practices" that increase consumer costs of prescription drugs.

Finally, on June 23, the House Appropriations Committee held a <u>markup</u> of the FY23 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations <u>bill</u>. The bill, as amended, was reported favorably by a vote of 31-26. As it relates to opioids, the committee report includes support for expanded use of naloxone and for FDA to support development of alternative and non-addictive opioids. The committee further agreed to an amendment to shift \$15 million from the FDA's Office of the Commissioner budget to coordinate the efforts of the FDA, DEA and CBP to combat the import of illicit opioids.

For more information, contact Kristen Freitas.

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### Headlines

Cardinal Health, Magellan Rx Management, and Novant Health Launch On-Demand Drone Delivery with Zipline Press Release, June 28, 2022

Biden's Covid Vaccine Strategy Shift Eludes Lawmakers, Pharma Bloomberg (Subscription Required), June 22, 2022

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